

## Arafat: U.S. involved in killing

ABU DHABI (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was quoted Wednesday as saying he had evidence the United States was involved in the killing of his military aide last month. "The United States did not only give Israel the green light for the operation but was involved in it and we have evidence," he said in an interview with Al Itihad newspaper and the Egyptian magazine Al-Masara. Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) was assassinated at his Tunis home April 16. Tunisia and other Arab states blamed Israel for the attack. Tunis said an Israeli Boeing 707 overflying the area jammed local communications during the raid and the assassins escaped by sea. Arafat did not elaborate on the evidence against the United States, which has denied any involvement. He said a warship brought the assassination team to Tunis and added: "I wonder whether the Boeing and the warship could have stayed in the area for three hours without approval by the U.S. fleet." He said two fighters escorted the Boeing but he did not identify them. "We have learned there was a military force aboard the warship and two jetfighters ready to intervene along with others at the right time," he said without elaboration.

# Jordan Times

Independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

## WHO condemns Israel

GENEVA (R) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) expressed deep concern Wednesday at the deterioration of health conditions in the Israeli-occupied territories. The annual assembly of the 166-state U.N. agency in a resolution expressed "profound concern and disquiet at practices and measures resorted to by Israel in the occupied Arab territories at present." The vote was 69 for and 23 against, with the rest either absent or abstaining. Israel and the United States voted against. Asserting that Palestinians have the right to their own health institutions, the resolution said dissatisfaction with health facilities was among the factors behind the five-month-old Palestinian uprising. The resolution, condemning Israel for "inhuman practices," called on it to allow medical and relief supplies to pass freely to those under occupation and to allow any local and international groups to develop health care in the territories. It also said: "The practice of repression and violence against the civilian population as well as acts of deportation and expulsion have serious repercussions on the health and psycho-social conditions of the people under occupation."

Volume 13 Number 3779

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY MAY 12-13, 1988, RAMADAN 26-27, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## Holidays announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will be closed from Monday to Thursday both days inclusive on the occasion of 'Eid Al Fitr' feast which marks the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan, according to an official communiqué issued by the Prime Ministry Wednesday.

## Arab unions form fund to back uprising

CAIRO (Petra) — Arab labour unions ended a conference here Wednesday with a decision to set up a fund for supporting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The fund, to be based in Cairo, will be financed by Arab organisations and donations. Participants representing 10 Arab states, Jordan included, also declared May 15 as a "day for Arab Labourers' Solidarity with the Palestinian People" and Dec. 28 as a World Day for Solidarity with the Palestinian Labourer.

## Ibrahimi in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi arrived Wednesday carrying a letter inviting President Hafez Al Assad to attend the extraordinary Arab summit due to be held in Algiers. Ibrahimi arrived from Iraq, where he conveyed a similar invitation to President Saddam Hussein.

## Iraq reports attack

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its aircraft attacked and hit a ship near the coast of Iran in the northern-Gulf. Wednesday. A military spokesman said the planes scored "an accurate and effective hit" on a large naval target — Baghdad's term for an oil tanker or merchant ship. On Sunday, Iraq said its jets hit two naval targets at Iran's Lavan island terminal in the central Gulf.

## Hoss assails U.S.

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon Wednesday criticised the United States for its veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's recent incursion into southern Lebanon. "Despite the American veto, we believe that we have won by enjoying the world's support," acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss said in a statement.

## Uno to visit Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno will visit Israel next month, the highest ranking Japanese official ever to come to the Zionist state, a foreign ministry official said Wednesday.

## Aga Khan named to U.N. Afghan post

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Sadruddin Aga Khan was named Wednesday as U.N. coordinator for economic and humanitarian programmes in Afghanistan. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, whose spokesman made the announcement, chose the former U.N. high commissioner for refugees to help implement the Afghanistan settlement negotiated under U.N. auspices and signed last month.

## Robertson quits race

WASHINGTON (R) — Former television evangelist Pat Robertson Wednesday ended his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination and threw his support to Vice President George Bush.

## Iraqi minister fired

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Health Minister Sadeq Hamid Alloush was sacked Wednesday after parliament passed a vote of no confidence in him. Baghdad Television reported.

## Rocard announces government today

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, designated by Socialist President Francois Mitterrand to implement a new centrist strategy, plans to announce the makeup of his new government Thursday.

# King warns of Israeli plan for 'alternative' Palestinian homeland

KUWAIT (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has warned of an Israeli plan to establishing an alternative Palestinian homeland in the East Bank and said that Jordan, which guards the longest Arab confrontation line with Israel, would continue to build up its forces to confront any eventuality.

"We have grave responsibilities to defend this country and to extend all possible support for the Palestinian people," the King said. "We are going ahead with all our might to build Jordan's intrinsic force," the King said in interview with the Kuwaiti Al Qabas daily newspaper.

The King said the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza would not liberate Arab land and needs to be coupled with other efforts.

"I personally believe that the uprising will not liberate land, but it may lead to solving the problem as quickly as possible," the King

told Al Qabas. "But, if the deterioration continues, the results may be a catastrophe for all in the region and probably for world peace. It (the uprising) must be an incentive to us to work as much as we can to save the people and save the land," he said.

The uprising spurred the United States to launch a new peace bid that calls for an international conference leading to direct Arab-Israeli talks.

The King said he did not know where the American initiative would lead. But he said credibility had fallen to "zero" and it was

up to the Americans to restore it.

## Palestinian choices

He said Palestinians had three choices on land liberated from Israeli occupation: unity with Jordan, a confederation with two parliaments and local governments and full independence. He told Al Qabas he was in favour of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

"This is the closest method to reality in respect of people's ambitions and desire and the historical phase we are living in," the King said.

But he said if Palestinians chose an independent state: "We will bless it and support it with all our energy and potential."

The King reaffirmed that Jordan would not represent the Palestinian people at the called for international conference but would be willing to form with them a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on equal footing with the Palestinians shouldering

(Continued on page 5)

# Carbomb explodes near Israeli embassy in Nicosia; three killed

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A powerful car bomb intended for the Israeli embassy in Nicosia killed three people and injured 19 Wednesday when it blew up on a busy avenue in the Cypriot capital.

Police and government officials said those killed included the driver of the car bomb, a four-wheel-drive Mitsubishi Pajero, and a Cypriot woman in the car behind.

They said nine of the injured

were in serious condition. The car blew up on a bridge minutes after police twice asked the driver to move it away from the Israeli embassy.

Israeli Ambassador Aharon Lopez had earlier said the embassy was a possible target. Authorities said windows were shattered in the building but no one there was injured.

Police said later they had arrested a 28-year-old Lebanese student, Omar Ahmad Hawillo,

who owned the Pajero. Cyprus radio said Hawillo had fled the vehicle moments before the blast.

Pieces of flesh and charred, twisted metal were scattered over a wide area, windows were broken up to one kilometre from the blast, which went off 200 metres from the Israeli embassy.

President George Vassiliou visited the scene and told reporters: "It is tragic that so many innocent people have had their lives cut short for reasons that for sure concern foreign matters."

Police said guards outside the Israeli embassy twice prevented the Mitsubishi from parking outside the building and on the second occasion it sped off towards central Nicosia.

It exploded minutes later on the bridge over the dried-up (Continued on page 5)

# Peres says accord cover peace conference urgent

MADRID (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told world socialist leaders Wednesday that there was an urgent need for a Middle East peace conference.

"No one can guarantee that the situation will quietly wait," he told a meeting of the Socialist International before leaving later in the day for Washington to discuss a forthcoming visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Peres also told the meeting he had discussed prospects for a peace conference at two meetings with Soviet observers at the Socialist International in Madrid.

"We stressed the urgency of the peace process. We told them that the calendar of events was really crucial," Peres said. Peres said prospects for a conference were hampered by a number of disagreements between the United States and the Soviet Union and the U.S. presidential election in November. Both Washington and Moscow support the principle of a conference.

He said the peace process could not wait for a new U.S. administration to take over and that he had found "openness, but not enough" during his talks with

the Soviet observers Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. He said the Soviets indicated willingness to discuss restoring diplomatic relations with Israel, severed after the 1967 war, once an agreement was reached on the peace conference.

Conference sources said there had been sharp discussions behind closed doors as the Socialist International's Middle East committee, which includes Palestinians, tried to draft a resolution on the situation in the region.

Former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi told the meeting that Israel could not occupy Arab territories with impunity.

"Sooner or later the rebellion comes... detention or execution of its chiefs are useless against a popular uprising," he said.

Craxi said an international conference was the most appropriate forum to discuss peace and proposed that Israel grant an autonomy to the occupied territories as a transition towards a confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian state.

He suggested that an agreement be guaranteed by the European community, under the auspices of the United Nations.

# Beirut fighting ebbs but militias brace for more

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian-backed Shi'ite Amal militiamen and their pro-Iranian Hizbollah foes took advantage of a ceasefire Wednesday to mass troops and reinforce their positions in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Witnesses quoted by news agencies said fighters of Amal and Hizbollah (Party of God), clad in military fatigues and brandishing rocket-launchers and rifles, crouched behind sandbags while others raised earth barricades.

Both factions massed reinforcements on the major battle lines of Bourj Al Barajneh, Gbobeiri, Mreijeh, Haret Hreik and Shayah districts in the dense-

ly-populated area. At least 29 people were killed Wednesday and 110 wounded, hospitals said, in fighting that included night-long barrages of tank, artillery, mortar and rocket-propelled grenade fire.

The latest clashes brought the casualty toll to 173 dead and 550 wounded since fighting for control of the Shi'ite suburbs erupted Friday.

The truce, the fourth since Friday, called for an immediate end to the fighting and to all attacks, counter-attacks and military operations by Amal and Hizbollah, security and militia sources said.

# Al Hussein pays tribute to Maan, vows to pursue objectives of Great Arab Revolt

MAAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday paid tribute to Maan, which served as the first stage for the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt in their drive to liberate Greater Syria from colonial rule.

The King, in remarks he made to dignitaries, notables and officials of Maan Governorate who attended an iftar he hosted here, recalled that Maan was the home of the leaders of the revolt in 1917 and the springboard from which King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein led the Arab forces towards Syria in the battle against foreign rulers.

In fact the nucleus of the Jordanian Armed Forces was formed in Maan, from where the sons of Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali led freedom fighters from different parts of the Arab World against occupiers and invaders in a deter-

mined effort to liberate the homeland, the King said.

Reviewing historical events at the beginning of the Great Arab Revolt, King Hussein said Maan and the southern parts of the Kingdom served as the field of great battles following the liberation of Aqaba in 1917. Battles raged around Maan and extended to Shobak, Tafilah and Wadi Mousa and huge numbers of Arab people from these regions joined the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt and their men in the fight against the colonial forces, the King recalled.

"From Maan the forces of the Great Arab Revolt moved north until it reached Aleppo in Syria where the Arab kingdom was founded under King Faisal Ibn Al Hussein. The Arabs fought on

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein receives dignitaries and notables of Maan Governorate at an iftar he hosted in Maan Wednesday (Petra photo)

# Israel forces closure of Palestinian shops

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army forced Palestinian shops in the occupied West Bank to close Wednesday, retaliating for two days of strikes marking the start of the sixth month of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Soldiers drove through the cities and towns of the West Bank calling through loudspeakers to shopkeepers not to open until noon, residents said. They said soldiers told them they must remain closed until midday for two weeks.

Leaders of the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have allowed shops to open between 9 a.m. and 12 noon,

while the army has attempted to force them closed during those hours.

Residents in the West Bank and Gaza observed general strikes Monday and Tuesday to note the beginning of the sixth month of uprising.

Police arrested six Palestinian journalists Tuesday night, Arab sources said. Three of those detained were from the Arabic daily Al Fajr, one from the banned Al Awdah magazine, and two were freelance journalists, the sources, quoted by Reuters, said.

The arrests bring the number of detained Palestinian journalists close to 30. Six of the nine directors of the Arab Journalists Association are now in jail.

In the Gaza Strip, Israel tightened controls and psychological pressure on Palestinians, with a massive operation to replace their identity cards.

Using a national computer, Israeli officials ordered applicants to prove they had paid taxes, water and electricity bills and had no outstanding criminal cases against them before dispensing new cards, witnesses said.

Others were told to report for interrogation by the Shin Bet secret police, they said.

In Nablus, 47 Palestinians were charged with the death of a Palestinian who was lynched by fellow villagers in Khabatayeh Feb. 24.

The Palestinian, suspected of

collaborating with Israeli security, shot dead a four-year-old boy and wounded 14 others when villagers attacked his house.

They tried to burn the house, and after beating the man, dragged him to the street and hanged him. Most of those charged pleaded innocent, Israel Radio said. The radio said 48 more will be charged Wednesday in the incident.

Palestinian sources reported clashes between protestors and soldiers in the Nablus casbah and said several Palestinians at the Jabalya refugee camp were wounded by rubber bullets during a demonstration.

(Continued on page 5)



# Arab Bank Ltd.

Prominent Services

# TRANSFERS

## To our clients

Our branches have been equipped with an automated system on line with the computer. Now you can receive any incoming cash transfers in your favour at any of our branches listed below, at your convenience.

You can also refer to any of those branches for enquiries about transfers in your favour. The rest of our branches will continue cashing transfers as usual.

## Our clients are worthy of our services

Branch	Telephone No.	P.O. Box
Amman		
King Faisal Street	638161-9	68-8
Jabal Luweibdeh	638673	9105
Jabal Amman	629479/629835	2711
Marka	891008-9	15450
Abdali	627271-2	926607
Fifth Circle	822901-3	141107
Suweijeh	841626-7	175
Mahatta	651375-7	6904
Wahdat	782123/771122-3	18067
Jabal Al-Hussein	614247/640237	8348
Shmeisani	660115	950546
Zerka	983381-2	145
Wadi Seer	810312/610311	140025







## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

**EXAM SUCCESSES:** The British Council has recently started offering a new certificated public examination, the Practical English Test, run by the University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate. Seven candidates, four women and three men, took the examination in March of this year and all were successful. Certificates were presented to them Wednesday at the British Council Teaching Centre; the seventh was an independent candidate.

**U.K. AID TO YWCA:** The British government has provided the YWCA Community Centre in Baqa'a Camp with a specialised sewing machine which will enable them to produce various kinds of uniforms for schools, hotels and hospitals which will help to boost their funds for charity purposes. Since the beginning of this year the British government has also donated a haematology machine to the Palestine Hospital, vocational training equipment to the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf as well as equipping a dental surgery for Husn Refugee Camp. Specialised toys have been given to the Jordan Save the Children Fund and, more recently, to the Al Ja'far Association for the Mentally Handicapped.

**ASESAS COMMITTEE:** The Damascus-based Arab Society for Economic, Social and Agricultural Sciences (ASESAS) has formed a committee to operate in Jordan in order to promote cooperation between the society and Jordanian researchers in economy and agriculture. The committee's chairman here said that the society encourages cooperation among Arab researchers at large to help promote agricultural extension services and rural development through meetings, seminars, conferences and constant consultations and visits.

**KARAK HEALTH TEAM:** A national health team has been set up in Karak to provide integrated health services and vaccination to citizens of Mazar district. The project is organised by the Health Ministry's Primary Health Care Department.

**ZARQA PRISON DEMOLISHED:** Zarqa Municipality has demolished the old prison building in Zarqa and is making arrangements for setting up public gardens and car parks in its place. The head of the municipal council said that the municipality is also making studies for installing traffic lights and to remove the roundabout which is located at the entrance to the Zarqa Army Camp. In addition, he said, the municipality is now building a bus terminal near the Zarqa Camp for travellers heading to the southern regions of the country.

**MAN SENTENCED TO JAIL:** The military court has sentenced Saadi Hamid Ali Said to five years in prison and the payment of JD 1,500 for trafficking with hashish. The military governor has endorsed the sentence.

**OLYMPIC GAMES:** Jordan will take part in the 24th Olympic Games to be held in Seoul in September, according to an official announcement Wednesday. The announcement said that the Ministry of Youth, which is responsible for youth activity in the Kingdom, will shortly name the members of the Jordanian team to take part in the Olympic Games.

**JPRC SHARES:** The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) will distribute dividends to its shareholders at the rate of 10 per cent. The decision was taken by the JPRC's board.

## Jordan to hold national exhibition of artists works

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri has called on Jordanian plastic artists to present some of their selected works to the ministry so that they can be displayed at a national exhibition to be held here in July. The request, contained in a message the minister sent to the Jordanian Plastic Artists Association board chairman, included a call on the artists to provide the ministry with an outline of their artistic life and their experience in art so that they can be included in an artists guidebook, which would be published in English and Arabic. This guidebook, he said, would be useful for art students in Jordan.

## Ramadan — A time for 'universal solidarity'

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ramadan, Islam's holiest month is a time for universal solidarity between Muslims. For 30 days men, women and even grown up children abstain from food, drink, smoking and foul play so that Muslims remember God. Ramadan gives Muslims a chance to feel with the poor and therefore be grateful to what they have.

Ramadan is a month for Muslims to practise self-discipline and control. Fasting is physically and mentally cleansing. The body takes a month-long diversion from habitual food consumption during the day. According to a person who has fasted since the beginning of Ramadan for the first time in his adult life abstaining from food, drink and tobacco has made him discover his ability to control his instincts.

"I don't fast for religious reasons but to practise self-control over my body. I mostly feel the urge to smoke, but I still contain myself. My body turned healthier with less food, especially that I don't indulge in excess food during iftar," he said.

This is how fasting and breaking-fasting at the end of the day should be according to Islamic teachings. But in most cases the situation is different. Most of those who fast overindulge during the night in food and keep eating all those Arabic goodies until they go to sleep. These end up not only gaining weight develop stomach pains and complications.

National consumption of meat and chicken are normally doubled during Ramadan. In fact, at one point during this Ramadan one could not find meat in the market. Also, according to major sweet shops in the country, sales of Ramadan goodies zoom up at a tremendous rate.

"I feel calmer when I fast. If I get irritated, I avoid getting angry because I don't have the energy to get upset," a person who fasts told the Jordan Times.

Again, in most instances this is not the case. People are so irritable during the day that one almost gets hit or cursed when on the streets. One does not dare argue with a fasting shopkeeper, or drive slowly in front of another vehicle.

Another complaint voiced by some people is that fasters in

general tend to become lazy during the month. "It is hopeless to get official papers done in government institutions in Ramadan, because civil servants not only slow down in their work but also leave early," one complained, adding that if fasting makes people lazy and irritable then they should not fast at all because this attitude defeats the purpose of Ramadan.

**After iftar**  
Amman, otherwise a boring and lifeless city, takes a new lease of life for one month. It bustles with life from 8:30 till 2:30 in the morning.

For one thing television programmes improve from those during the day. According to one viewer, the daytime programmes were not very organised this year.

"The local shows are so cheaply made and it's obvious that they were low-budgeted. There is nothing new for the viewers. Programmes are not in the least bit interesting. The only good daytime programme is an Egyptian-produced short entertainment programme," she noted.

So not only are the programmes good at night, and people can stay up watching the screen until 2:30 a.m., but there is a variety of things to do outside. Many people go visiting family and friends and end up playing cards and backgammon until dawn.

Downtown and Jabal Hussein are full of people roaming the streets until late hours. Shops and boutiques are open for the ordinary people to buy their new clothes for Eid Al Fitr, the feast which marks the end of Ramadan; bazaars open until late hours.

As one hears "souk Ramadan" in Jabal Hussein, revolutionary and disco music fill the air while vendors sell their items for excellent bargains.

"Anything for one dinar," shouts one vendor bawling women's dresses, while another sells shoes and accessories for incredibly low prices.

Inside the neon-lit bazaar, men and women walk around looking for bargains while children run around playing and screaming in the cool night air.

All sorts of items can be found at this bazaar, is organised by the Charity Piarist Project of the General Union for Voluntary



A woman with down syndrome works at a biscuit factory

## JTV to air documentary on Jordan's handicapped

AMMAN (J.T.) — A documentary film featuring the life and work of handicapped people in Jordan will be presented by Jordan Television Channel One Saturday, May 14. The programme presents three types of handicapped persons who have undergone training and had special education in a number of Jordanian rehabilitation centres.

In the programme, to be screened at 5:15 p.m., viewers delve into the life of three handicapped youths, one working as a tailor near Irbid and the other employed by the Jordan Electric Power Company in Amman and the third, a woman, is employed

in a biscuit factory. The programme, sponsored and financed jointly by Jordan Television and the London-based Cooperation for Development International, also focuses attention on the type of education and rehabilitation offered to Jordanian handicapped persons in the Kingdom, prospects for their absorption in the community and an interview with Dr. Mubdi Abul Dabab from the Health Ministry, on causes of handicaps and ways to avoid them.

The programme entitled On the Way Together was prepared by Zahia Inaab and Linn Failing, and directed by Mohammad Hmoud.

## NMI needs JD 80m for hospital services

AMMAN (J.T.) — A detailed study on the cost of operating government hospitals revealed that JD 80 million are needed annually to maintain good services and provide sufficient medical care for the public.

The study was compiled by the National Medical Institution (NMI) which this summer takes charge of hospitals run by the Health Ministry and the Royal Medical Services in Jordan.

The study reflected the NMI's plans for developing the existing hospitals in two stages, and the establishment of small-size hospitals in a number of regions. The study noted that the gov-

ernment would have to contribute to the NMI's budget by providing medical insurance for government employees and their families, just like any other company which provides such services to its staff.

"In addition the government would introduce legislations to facilitate the work of the NMI's hospitals, and would also contribute to NMI's hospital projects," the study noted.

## 60-year-old man stabbed to death in Karak

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 60-year-old man was stabbed to death in Karak in a feud that erupted between two groups of people Tuesday.

A report in Al Dustour Arabic daily said that the murderer was 50-year-old M.F.A. and the police were holding an investigation.

The paper also reported the death of a 35-year-old Egyptian in a road accident at Ras Al Naqab on the Desert Highway linking Amman with Aqaba. In the accident two other people were injured, the paper noted.

It also reported the death of a 55-year-old woman and her 18-year-old daughter when they drowned in a water well at Khaldiab near Mafrag. The two bodies, it said, were pulled out from the well by Civil Defence Department rescue workers.

## Police arrest 3 bands of thieves in Jerash

JERASH (J.T.) — The police in Jerash has apprehended three separate bands of thieves who were in the habit of breaking into homes, stores and other places and stealing cash, cattle and domestic appliances, according to a report in the local press Wednesday.

The report said that most of the thefts and robberies were committed by these thieves during weekends and public holidays, when owners were most likely to be away.

According to the report, one of the bands consisted of seven youths caught red-handed and carrying axes, and other sharp tools for breaking doors and windows.

The police seized most of the items they had stolen including a refrigerator, a washing machine, and wrist watches, the report said.

It said the second band consisted of three men who used to steal sheep, while the members of the third group had specialised in pick pocketing at the bus terminal in Jerash.

## Crown Prince chairs meeting of Higher Council for Science, Technology

## Citizens' Guidance Office to help serve public's needs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) is sponsoring the establishment of a "Citizens' Guidance Office," which would devote its efforts to promote development and bridge the gap between the local authority and members of the public.

A meeting to discuss the new project was held at the HCST headquarters in Amman Wednesday under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

"Such an office can ensure the continued progress of the Kingdom's social and economic institutions towards meeting the needs of the public, and can help to solve problems impeding such progress," Prince Hassan said at a meeting.

He underlined the need for the introduction of proper channels of communication between the public and the authorities, especially in matters related to public administration and services.

"The proposed office would ensure permanent links between the public and the process leading to comprehensive development, and would prevent any adverse factors from obstructing such process," Prince Hassan noted.

Prince Hassan complained that Jordan's various public and government organisations still lack a common information network and up-to-date statistical information essential for development, a gap which could be bridged through the proposed office.

He said that the "Citizens Gui-

dance Offices" would be useful to have in all districts of the Kingdom to act as a liaison office, gathering information for the benefit of the local community.

Prince Hassan referred to experiments of advanced countries in this respect, which, he said, would benefit Jordan in the new endeavour.

The director of the HCST's Communications and International Relations Department, Dr. Mazen Armouti, presented a general document for the new project and a general outline of the proposed office and its functions.

The document included experiments in Jordan in the field of providing guidance and advice to the citizens on economic and social issues, and contacts with government officials in this respect. Armouti also presented a sam-

ple of other countries' experiments in this field.

Attending the meeting were Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Jawad Al Anani, Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qasem, HCST President Dr. Adnan Badran, Prince Hassan's Office Director Michael Hamarneh, members of a special committee involved in establishing the projected office and local journalists.

The ad hoc committee is scheduled to follow up discussion on the subject and submit recommendations during May.

The committee members will also be involved in the process of assessing the implementation of the first half of the 1986-1990 five-year national development plan which will take place between June and August this year.

## Rifai meets with Sawt Al Shaab board

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has stressed the government's support for Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily and said that the newspaper's main task should be to reflect official policy and Jordan's stands at all levels.

Speaking during a visit to the newspaper's offices, Rifai said that the government has been supporting the daily also to ensure the rights of its share holders.

During the two-hour meeting with the paper's board members, Rifai pointed out that the recent government decision to limit the size of all Arabic dailies to 24 pages was "designed to cut on the cost of paper prices of which has been soaring world-wide."

"Cutting down on paper cost means reducing the amount of hard currency being transferred abroad to import paper," the prime minister noted.

## Education team to visit Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian educational delegation will travel to Kuwait on May 22 to discuss promoting Jordanian-Kuwaiti cooperation in educational fields.

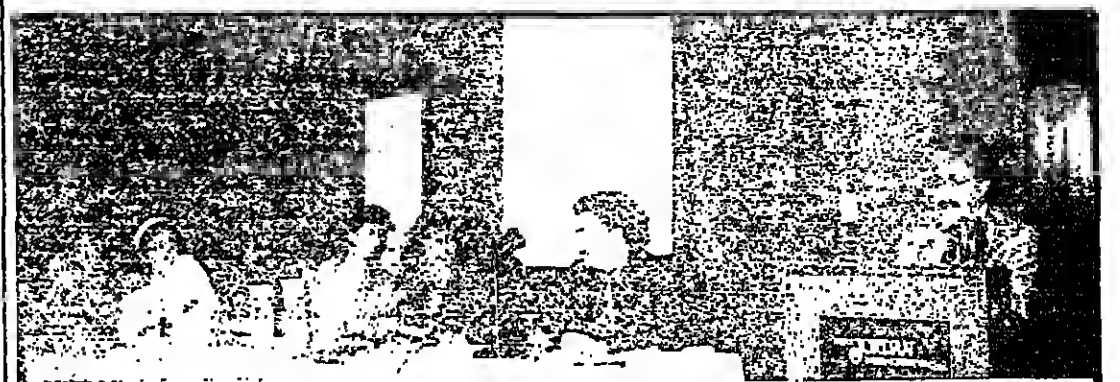
The delegation, which will spend five days in Kuwait, is to be headed by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad, according to Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The paper said that the minister will meet with the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and will hold talks with ministers and senior officials on coordinating work among Jordanian and Kuwaiti universities.

In addition, the paper said, the delegation will tour a number of Kuwaiti educational institutions.

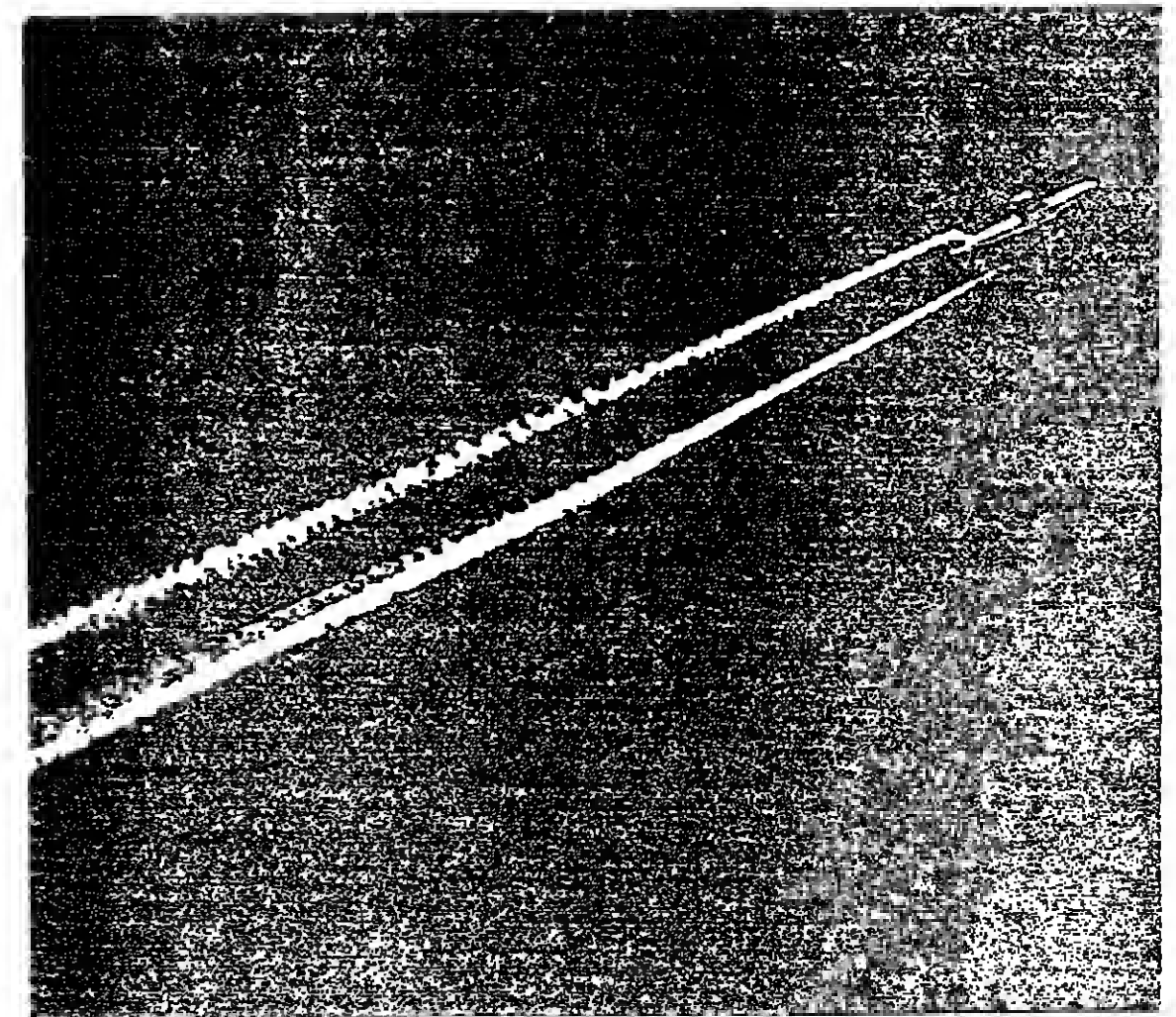
The delegation's visit is at the invitation of Kuwaiti Minister of Higher Education Anwar Al Nouri.

According to the paper the delegation will group the presidents of Mu'ta University, Jordan University of Science and Technology and two others representing community colleges and the Ministry of Higher Education.



**AUB QUIZ NIGHT:** As part of its continuing programme of cultural activities, the AUB Alumni Club of Amman held a General Knowledge Contest at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel Saturday. After close to three hours of sometimes tough questions (devised by Mijad Khalidun Abu Hassan, Isam Salfiti and Riad Khouri) the team of Nabil Boulos emerged victorious, with the teams of Fawaz, Jameian, Jafar Toukan and Faris Nimri second, third and fourth respectively. Prizes were offered by the Royal Jordanian, Samir Batshon Bookstore, Middle East Business Associates, Jordan Jewelry Store and Transmed. The club plans to hold a series of quizzes next month. For details, ring Wael Karadshi on 641325. The picture shows quizmaster Salfiti, flanked by Khouri, asking the questions to a packed house of 20 teams (Photo by Nabil Hattar)

## We've got the most scenic routes in Europe.



It's true, Europe has many beautiful sites. And Lufthansa gets you to more of them via Frankfurt than any other.

Take our frequent daily departures to all major

European cities, for instance. They get you where you want to go. Fast reliably, comfortably - and punctually.

Seeing Europe? See Lufthansa.

Lufthansa

For information contact Lufthansa, Kaitani & Badran Bldg. Elia Abumadi St., Shmeisani, Tel 601744



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 666265-2

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Reading through U.S. veto

THE United States' veto of the U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's attack into south Lebanon last week should be required reading for American graduate students in the psychology of official double standards. The U.S. vetoed the resolution because, in the words of its U.N. ambassador, "it does not acknowledge the well known fact that hostile acts against Israel are originating in Lebanon," adding that "all those who provide funds and arms to militias and other groups that operate in southern Lebanon, while denying the authority of the central Lebanese government, must share the responsibility for the continued instability in the area."

The United States cannot expect to be taken seriously in the region if the premise of its policy is that Israeli security is the top priority of regional power arrangements, while all other considerations of Arab rights should be viewed in relation to Israel's security needs. Hostile acts against Israel originate in south Lebanon because for the past 40 years hostile acts against the Palestinians and their national rights have originated in the minds of Zionists and the cheap mercantilism of American politicians. If the Americans are so concerned about the origins of hostile acts, they would do well to recall that they voted for a Palestinian state in 1947, but now steadfastly refuse to accept the Palestinian right to self-determination and statehood. The problem is not the origin of violence against Israel, it is the origin of violence against both Palestinians and Jews, and it will only be resolved by satisfying the national rights of both.

The United States is the last party on earth that should talk about providing funds and arms to groups that engage in acts that foster regional instability, given its record of astounding financial and military support for Israel. If the United States feels that the Israelis have greater rights than the Palestinians, it should have the courage to come out and say so, and accept the consequences. We are offended by American government statements that try to make believe that all is well in the Middle East except for some violent Arabs who go around harassing Israel's northern border. To isolate an incident and ignore the broader context of political denial and human suffering from which it stems is the act of a child, or a fool, or a crass, cold, malicious political operator who values short-term gain over more meaningful criteria of national morality.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: King defends nation

KING Hussein spoke in an interview with the Agence France Presse tackling all issues of concern to the Arab countries and the challenges imposed on the nation. Most importantly he discussed the Palestine issue and said that due to the absence of peace and continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian land backed by the American support, the Palestinians rose in the face of injustice and oppression. The King described the uprising as a real revolt coming in reaction to Israel's continued repressive measures and inhuman practices. The King said that he regretted to see a regression in the U.S. position vis-a-vis the Middle East issue because that attitude has encouraged Israel to pursue its practices in the occupied lands. The King also regretted the lack of real action to stem Israel's practices on the part of the international community which only voiced its condemnation of such practices. The Palestinian uprising, which is tantamount to an all-out revolt, is shaking the ground under Israel's feet and thwarting the Zionists' dreams in our lands. The King said in the interview that the search for peace should start from the beginning and the root cause of the Palestinian problem. The root cause is the usurpation of the Palestinian land and the deprivation of the Palestinian people of their lawful rights. These rights and these lands can only be regained through the proposed international conference which can bring peace based on justice.

#### Al Dustour: 'U.S. position regressing'

KING Hussein pointed out in an interview published Tuesday that the U.S. position vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict has been regressing since 1967, but Jordan will continue the dialogue with Washington for the sake of arriving at an acceptable just settlement for the problem. At the same time, the King called on the Arab countries to be alert and vigilant and to take into account all developments because the situation in the region might explode any moment, barring the conclusion of a peaceful settlement for the Palestine problem. For the first time the King disclosed his idea of forming a unified Arab force that can act as a rapid deployment force that would be employed in defending any Arab country in the event of a foreign aggression. Such idea projects Jordan's tendency towards the military option in the face of an aggression and a foreign threat to Arab security. The formation of a rapid deployment force to repel aggression rekindles Arab countries' hopes for real collective action which leads to unity of Arab people. In his interview the King presented a diagnosis of the Arab situation and outlined Jordan's position with regard to the Middle East question and future prospects.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: King warns of grave danger

KING Hussein in an interview with the Agence France Presse on Tuesday warned of the explosion of the situation in the Middle East region if no agreement was reached for establishing peace. At the same time he underlined Arab Nation's determination to continue the struggle for regaining Arab rights in the occupied and holy places in Palestinian land. The King said that the explosion would come as a result of Israel's continued intransigence and continued U.S. backing for Israel's occupation and inhuman practices in the occupied Arab territories. The King paid tribute to the Palestinian people's uprising, describing it as a revolt that shook the ground under Israel's feet, and rendered Israel more isolated than ever. Israel which is supported by the United States should be confronted by a pan-Arab force, capable of deterring its adventures and putting an end to its atrocities and massacres committed over the past 40 years. For this reason, a pan-Arab rapid deployment force as suggested by the King forms the nucleus of a real and practical action on the part of the Arab World to confront the common enemy.

## Afghans do not fear becoming another Vietnam

By Eric Hall  
Reuter

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — The Soviets are going, the Mujahideen are waiting to pounce on Afghanistan's faltering Communist government, but Afghans scoff at suggestions that their country could become another Iran, Vietnam, or Lebanon.

The Soviet Union has agreed to withdraw its estimated 115,000 troops from May 15, leaving President Najibullah's government in Kabul to stand alone against Muslim guerrillas vowing to settle old scores.

Political analysts have predicted various scenarios in the turbulent mountain state where tribesmen used the same hit-and-run tactics against Soviet forces as they did to give imperial Britain a bloody nose during "the great game" more than a century ago. Afghans reject any idea that Afghanistan could become the Iranian-style Islamic theocracy of the Ayatollah Ruhollah

Khomeini, hostile to capitalism and Communism alike.

"When we started our holy war against the Communists in 1978, there was no Khomeini in Iran. Khomeini gave no direction to us. Why should he give direction to us now?" said Haji Said Daud, head of the Afghan Media Resource Centre.

"We started our armed struggle before Iran and had our own ideals," said Nawab Salim, spokesman for the seven-party Islamic Alliance in Peshawar, near the Afghan border.

Not least of the differences is that the majority of Iranians are Shi'ite Muslims, while most Afghans are Sunni, which is the main faith of the majority of Muslim nations.

Sunni is the older tradition. "Afghans don't have to prove to themselves that they are good Muslims, they know they are already," said one Western diplomat.

### Another Lebanon

History and race also separate

the two: To Afghans, Iran's majority Persians in centuries past have been as much the aggressors as the Indians, the British, and the Russians.

The Afghan war is different in nature to the Islamic revolution which toppled the Shah of Iran in 1979.

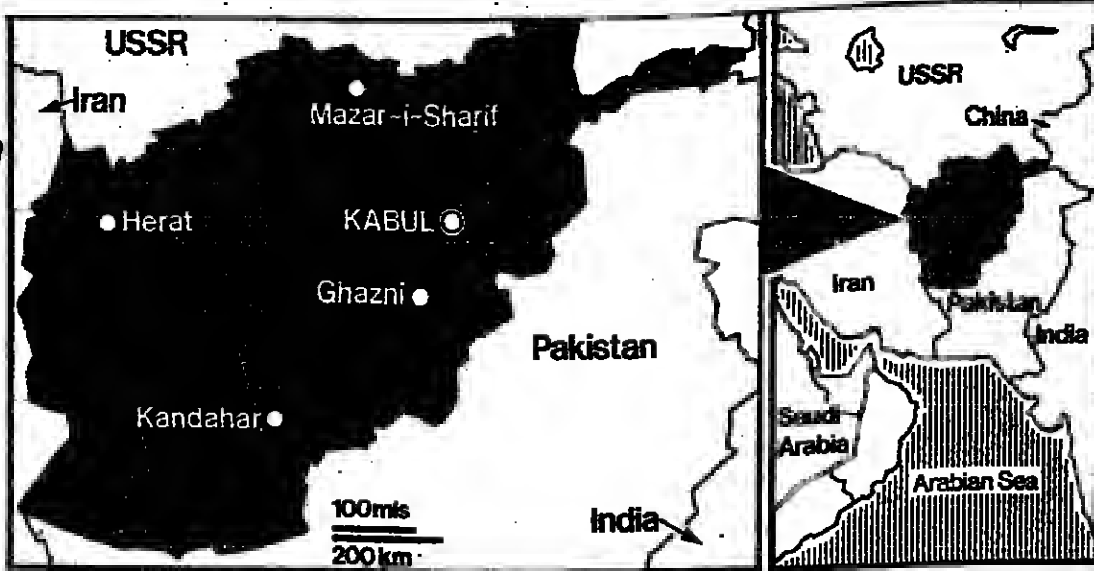
"Their revolution was against their own ruler and outside forces were indirectly involved. We are fighting a liberation war," said Latay Najibullah of the Jamiat-Islami group.

The view Afghanistan may become another Lebanon, torn and wasted by civil war and strife, is also unfounded, they said.

Some groups may fight each other, but the numerous Afghan tribes have been doing so for centuries. It has not stopped the loose but workable coalition that is called Afghanistan from surviving, said another alliance official.

Traditional tribal fighting is also less damaging than ideological and religious warfare, the Afghans said.

Around Peshawar and along



the border more than three million Afghan refugees live in relative harmony with Pakistanis with whom they have family, tribal, religious, or linguistic ties.

"The Soviets said in 1979 that Peshawar would be like a new Beirut, but now you see it has not happened," said Daud.

Afghanistan's geography is also a factor. Beirut's "green line" is a few gutted streets dividing warring factions.

"An Afghan green line would

likely be a 7,000-metre high mountain chain," said another diplomat.

The comparison with Vietnam is also misleading, the Afghans say.

In 1975, the South Vietnamese government of President Nguyen Van Thieu fell to North Vietnam after supporting U.S. troops withdrew, but only after massive conventional northern attacks on the south.

Afghan guerrillas believe Najibullah is not another Thieu.

"Najibullah is still weak and once his supplies are gone his forces will collapse," said Nawab Salim.

Farouq Adam Khan, a former Pakistani military officer who has travelled in Afghanistan, thought so too.

"Thieu had many, many more divisions than old Najibullah has got. And certainly Thieu did not have as hostile a civilian population against him as this gentleman has here," he said.

## Moscow's signal to the Third World

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuter

LONDON — When Soviet troops pull out of Afghanistan, those hit hardest by the shock waves could be Moscow's friends in Africa, the Far East and Latin America, Western diplomats and experts say.

The withdrawal, due to begin on May 15 and to be completed in nine months, will signal to left-wing regimes fighting protracted wars that the Kremlin is no longer prepared to underwrite them indefinitely, these analysts believe.

But the departure of the estimated 115,000 troops after more than eight years of fighting Muslim rebels is likely to have little strategic impact in the immediate region and will be broadly welcomed in the Soviet Union itself, they add.

"It's not going to destabilise Pakistan or India or Russia," says Major Andrew Duncan of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies.

"Maybe the Russians are perturbed that somebody may move in (to Afghanistan), but they will realise nobody's going to."

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has proclaimed an era of "new thinking" in foreign policy, which analysts say means wielding political influence rather than military might as under former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, who died in 1982.

It was during Brezhnev's rule that Soviet forces went into Afghanistan, Cuban troops into Angola, Soviet and Cuban experts into Ethiopia and Vietnamese forces into Kampuchea. They all shored up Marxist governments against insurgents. But none of the governments have achieved complete military victory.

Model for other conflicts

"The impression now," a Western diplomat said, "is that the men in the Kremlin, looking at the Brezhnev period, have come to the conclusion that those were pretty poor investments."

The Afghanist withdrawal, another diplomat said, accords with "the long-term abandonment of the philosophy that a Third World regime only had to declare itself Socialist and come to Moscow with outstretched palm, to be given everything."

The Gorbachev team, facing serious economic problems at home, is now viewing all foreign involvements on a strict cost-benefit basis, experts said.

The trend of Moscow's new policy has been made clear in a statement by Gorbachev, since echoed by other Soviet officials, that the Afghanistan deal could serve as a model for settling other regional conflicts.

Diplomats said embattled left-wing governments were bound to take to heart the fact that the Kremlin was leaving the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) to fend for itself with no internal military or political solution in sight.

As for the rest of the international community, they said, the withdrawal could only improve Moscow's standing after years of isolation at the United Nations over Afghanistan.

power outside its traditional sphere.

### Another Muslim neighbour

But most analysts now think the move had no far-reaching strategic aim, and they reject the theory that the Soviet Union was trying to advance towards a warm-water port — an ambition that has been attributed to Moscow since Tsarist times.

"The invasion was a defensive action, not a well-thought out plot to gain another slice of territory," a diplomat said.

The troops went in when bloody feuding within the PDPA and mounting guerrilla insurgency appeared to create a serious security problem on the Soviet Union's southern borders.

But the Kremlin now seems confident it can have a working relationship with whatever government ends up in power in Kabul — much as it has with the Islamic rulers in Iran — and that Afghanistan will not be thrown open to the U.S. military.

More serious for Gorbachev could be the perception that the Soviet army is retreating from Afghanistan, like the Americans from Vietnam, with none of its objectives attained and that the frontiers of Socialism are being rolled back.

This is not the first time that Soviet troops have been withdrawn from abroad — they pulled out of Austria in 1955.

But experts said that, while the withdrawal was likely to be broadly welcomed by the Soviet public and even the armed forces, some politicians might, when a suitable moment arose, be able to hold it against Gorbachev as a sign of weakness.

Some experts believe the pull-out amounts to abandonment of the so-called Brezhnev Doctrine, used to justify the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, which holds that such actions are legitimate when Socialism is in danger.

But other analysts said the Kremlin had been preparing for this problem by steadily backing away from recognising Afghanistan as a member of the Socialist bloc.

By David Lewis  
Reuter

BUDAPEST — Hungary's ruling Communist Party approaches its first special conference since 1957 with everybody asking: will Janos Kadar leave office?

Seventy-six on May 26, Kadar has led Hungary since the abortive anti-Communist uprising of 1956. But now Prime Minister Karoly Grosz — one of Hungary's Gorbachev generation — is hinting heavily that it is time for him to go.

"Big trees dry out..." the 57-year-old premier told British journalists last week, adding that "long shadows" cast by big trees made it difficult for talented younger people to grow up.

He also said it was natural for himself, ideologist Janos Berecz and People's Patriotic Front (PPF) leader Imre Pozsgay to be mentioned as leading candidates for the succession.

One journalist asked if an alternative to cutting down or digging up a "big tree" might be to create the post of an honorary

## Blacks remain steadfast despite pressure

By David Crary  
The Associated Press

OUKASIE, South Africa — A government accustomed to getting its way has met its match, at least for now, in the residents of this ramshackle black township that officially does not exist.

For years, white authorities have been trying to coax or coerce the people of Oukasié into moving to a newer township 20 kilometres away. Oukasié was abolished in 1986 but about 8,000 residents remain, determined to stay.

Last month, the government declared the 55-year-old township an "emergency camp" subject to severe new regulations.

Rents were raised by 50 per cent, unauthorised visitors will be barred as of June 1, and permits are required to renovate homes, keep pets or accommodate lodgers.

Members of the close-knit community believe the government seeks to demolish them so they will move voluntarily. That would enable the authorities to eliminate Oukasié without resorting to forced removal, a policy the government claims to have abandoned.

Oukasié residents say they've grown used to adversity and won't succumb to any pressure.

"Sometimes in life you get tired of being harassed and moved about," said Sello Ramakobye, a spokesman for Oukasié's civic association. "You decide it's time to resist."

The official reason for Oukasié's intended demise is that the government considers it an unhealthy slum, beyond rehabilitation because of "astronomic costs."

Residents commissioned a study that said upgrading would cost 3 million rands (\$1.4 million). They say this would be cheaper than relocating all of them at the new township, Lethlabile, and they believe the government's real reason is that Oukasié is only a few hundreds metres from a white suburb of Brits.

Brits, 50 kilometres west of Pretoria, is a stronghold of the far-right conservative party. Its white residents have displayed little public sympathy for their black neighbours who now can walk to their jobs in Brits and will have to pay for transport if they move to Lethlabile.

Thanks to government funding, Lethlabile has advantages

over Oukasié, and some of the 5,000 former Oukasié residents who have moved there are pleased with their choice. The new township's streets are smooth, its homes have electricity and plumbing. A few houses are relatively lavish, with patios and two-car garages.

Oukasié, barred from expanding and denied funds for improvements, is overcrowded and dilapidated. Many homes are in ruins, demolished by former owners as a prerequisite for getting state compensation to move to Lethlabile. The only services provided in return for rent are water from communal taps and removal of waste from bucket toilets.

But Oukasié has certain charms. Trees, a rare sight in many townships, are abundant, and well-tended gardens adjoin even some of the most run-down metal shacks. Two soccer fields are maintained diligently by local youths.

"Everything we want to do, we do it ourselves," said Elias Sithole, a 39-year-old former carpenter. He is one of an estimated 50 per cent of the adult

population that is unemployed, and says job-seeking from Lethlabile would be costly and difficult.

Other jobless residents don't want to move because they have improved their homes in Oukasié over the years, and couldn't afford houses in Lethlabile except for the small metal huts allocated to newcomers.

"The social structure in Oukasié is so coherent," said Ramakobye. "It's wrong to destroy it. In Lethlabile, everybody is for himself."

Oukasié residents also are wary of Lethlabile's proximity to the nominally independent homeland of Bophuthatswana. There are fears that the new township will be incorporated into the homeland, thus depriving its residents of South African citizenship.

"No one is going to volunteer to go to Lethlabile," said Sithole. "The government thinks everybody is going to be scared into going, but it will take force. You should see the unity of these people."

Sithole guided visitors to the edge of the nearby white suburb,

where a concrete moat filled with dark green mud separates hand-some, 4- and 5-year-old hillside homes from a dirt road leading to Oukasié.

"How can they say it's too expensive to upgrade Oukasié when they upgrade their mountain?" he asked.

Raw sewage from whites' homes runs into a gully next to the township, and Sithole said Oukasié residents are somewhat cynical about white complaints that the black community smells.

Some Oukasié activists have been detained, others operate from underground, but the community seems to have learned how to stay informed and unified. Ramakobye said residents, who are considering a possible court challenge against the government, believe their case is so clear-cut that they prefer to campaign alone, avoiding involvement with national anti-apartheid organisations.

The way Sithole explains the matter, it sounds simple.

"I am not illegal in this place," he said. "I am legal."

## Immigrants thrive in wealthy Dubai's racial melting-pot

By Mark Fisher  
Reuter

DUBAI — Visitors to this bustling Arab port are often bewildered to find that their taxi-drivers are Pakistani, their barmaids Filipino, their business contacts British and many labourers African.

In the racial melting-pot of Dubai, indigenous Arabs have become a minority. Immigrants from around the globe have helped build a vibrant trading centre.

"Dubai is unique," an Indian trader in the colourful gold souk (bazaar) told Reuters. "We are here to make money and officials don't ask many questions — where else in the Middle East can you say that?"

Container ships dock at Port Rashid, a symbol of Dubai's modern economic success, while battered dhows with carpets and fruit from Iran ply an age-old trade in the creek, an inlet that

winds through the picturesque city.

Iranians have lived here for generations and thousands of shoppers visit each month from Iran across the Gulf, eager for consumer goods that their war-torn economy cannot supply.

The emirate is careful to maintain cordial ties with its powerful neighbour.

Dubai's residents have little interest in the spectacular shipping war being fought off the coast by prowling Iranian gunboats and frigates, which regularly set oil tankers ablaze.

The boom of a warship's guns can sometimes be heard in the city, or smoke from a stricken ship be seen on the horizon.

But the attacks, part of Iran's seven-year-old war with Iraq, seem a million miles from Dubai's crowded souks and smart hotels.

"The shipping war is bigger news back home than here," said Alan Robinson, a British tourist

visiting Dubai on his way to the Far East.

Relaxing in the sun with a beer, he said Dubai's free-and-easy ways made nonsense of Western prejudices that Arabia has nothing to offer except sand, oil and bans on alcohol.

In narrow streets along the creek, Western tourists in shorts mingle with veiled Arab women dressed in black, dodging porters humping boxes in the sweltering heat.

Many labourers have African features, a testimony to ancient ties between Arabia and the East Africa coast.

Unofficial estimates put the Indian population at 400,000 and the Pakistani at 230,000, with tens of thousands of Filipinos.

Though many Western expatriates have left in recent years, replaced by cheaper employees from elsewhere, thousands of Britons still live in Dubai — a legacy of British rule that ended in 1971.

## Will conference give Kadar honorary post?

By David Lewis  
Reuter

BUDAPEST — Hungary's ruling Communist Party approaches its first special conference since 1957 with everybody asking: will Janos Kadar leave office?

Seventy-six on May 26, Kadar has led Hungary since the abortive anti-Communist uprising of 1956. But now Prime Minister Karoly Grosz — one of Hungary's Gorbachev generation — is hinting heavily that it is time for him to go.

"Big trees dry out..." the 57-year-old premier told British journalists last week, adding that "long shadows" cast by big trees made it difficult for talented younger people to grow up.

He also said it was natural for himself, ideologist Janos Berecz and People's Patriotic Front (PPF) leader Imre Pozsgay to be mentioned as leading candidates for the succession.

One journalist asked if an alternative to cutting down or digging up a "big tree" might be to create the post of an honorary

big tree.

"I can conceive of what you have been referring to," Grosz replied, alluding to suggestions that Kadar could be given a new honorary post like party president. "I think that is do-able."

These and other remarks, while stopping short of direct calls on Kadar to go, amount to unprecedented open criticism of a Communist leader and reflect a growing feeling within the party that Kadar should relinquish the reins of power.

For his part, Kadar seems less than anxious to go.

He told U.S. television in an interview over the weekend that he was willing to give up power if the party wished, but that he had no plans to do so just yet.

Several Hungarian sources say he is clinging to office for fear retirement might be followed by open questioning of his role in the execution of Imre Nagy, whose 1956 announcement that Hungary was leaving the Warsaw Pact sparked a Soviet invasion.

The extraordinary conference, scheduled to last three days from May 20, was called ostensibly for the party to endorse accelerated

economic reform and adjust the role of ideology, the party and political institutions accordingly.

But leading Hungarian dissident Miklos Haraszti told Reuters Grosz had called it in a deliberate move to oust Kadar.

Although he has led Hungary through reforms unique for a Communist country, Kadar is now seen as resisting more radical changes sought by Grosz and especially by Pozsgay, whose PPF is an umbrella organisation representing non-party bodies.

Kadar at first appeared to outmanoeuvre Grosz by taking charge of the conference's organising committee, Haraszti said.

But the PPF, academy of sciences and party groups all over Hungary have criticised the draft conference document severely as inadequate in substance and not concrete enough in detail.

Kadar has not been assailed directly in state newspapers, but several leading party members have made coded calls for him to go, by talking of politicians "taking responsibility" for problems like soaring debt and falling living standards.

"The issue of responsibility, and how it is interpreted, is a key to the conference," one western diplomat said.

Grosz himself said in an interview with the government daily Magyar Hirlap on April 28 that politicians should be able to withdraw if "biological laws" sapped their abilities, adding: "We need people who are able to handle the conflicts."

If direct criticism of Kadar remains taboo in the public press, this has not been so in the many recent local party meetings called to discuss the draft conference document.

Grosz said last week that Kadar's leadership had been raised at all local meetings he had attended.

Of the delegates chosen to attend the conference — one for every 1,000 of the party's 820,000 members — he added:

"It will be up to them to decide whether they would prefer to count on the activities of Janos Kadar as general secretary of the party or prefer to choose somebody else."

Talk that Kadar might step

down at the conference was boosted by the December resignation of Czechoslovak Communist Party Leader Gustav Husak, Kadar's almost exact contemporary.

The feeling until recently was that Kadar would remain as general secretary until the next full party congress in 1990.

But perceptions are changing rapidly as May 30 approaches.

"The atmosphere of the simple party rank and file is very dangerous," Haraszti said. "I personally don't think Kadar will survive it at least that is a possibility. It is a fantastically open conference."

One senior party source told Reuters recently he rated the chances of a change at the very top as "50-50".

Asked if the party was seriously considering a successor to Kadar at the conference, or whether the problem would be "wallpapered over for another two years," Grosz said this week: "The party is thinking, and I would be more confident in my answer if you asked me after May 10, when the central committee will be in session to sum up the debate on the conference."



## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

## Reagan oscillates over pardons

WASHINGTON (R) — After appearing to rule out pardons for indicted Iran-contra figures John Poindexter and Oliver North, President Reagan has reopened the issue — but the White House says he has reached no decision. Two days of conflicting statements by Reagan left the matter right where it has been for months. In an interview Monday with syndicated columnist Carl Rowen, Reagan seemed to dash the hopes of those who have been urging him to absolve his two former aides of legal liability for any crimes arising from the secret sale of U.S. arms to Iran and diversion of profits to Nicaragua's contra rebels. "You can't consider that (pardon), Carl, until this case has been closed, whichever way it's going to go," the White House quoted Reagan as saying. "To pardon somebody before trial leaves a sense of guilt around them, a cloud of guilt for the rest of time. And so this is something that I don't have to face," he added. But Tuesday, when a reporter asked Reagan after a White House ceremony if he had "definitively" ruled out pardons, he tersely replied: "No."

## Khartoum meningitis curbs lifted

KHARTOUM (R) — Health officials in Khartoum have lifted curbs imposed in March to fight a meningitis epidemic which killed more than 500 people in the capital in three months. Sudan's state radio said Wednesday. A mass vaccination campaign begun several weeks ago has dramatically cut the number of new cases, health officials said. On March 15, private schools, nurseries, theatres and cinemas were closed and sports events and demonstrations banned in efforts to contain the disease. Official meningitis cases had been reported nationwide and that 1,446 people had died of the disease.

## Vernon Walters to visit Middle East

UNITED NATIONS (R) — American U.N. envoy Vernon Walters will leave Thursday for an extensive tour of Middle East capitals, U.S. sources said Tuesday. They said the purpose was to confer with government officials in advance of next September's General Assembly session. Walters, who only recently returned from a trip to Latin America, is to visit Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and most of the Gulf states. Precise details of his itinerary were not available. He is due back at the beginning of June.

## Court upholds Achille Lauro sentences

ROME (R) — Italy's highest court Tuesday upheld life sentences on four Palestinians for organising the hijack of the Achille Lauro cruise ship in October 1985 when an American passenger was killed. The court of cassation also confirmed jail terms passed by a court in the port city of Genoa in May last year on seven other Palestinians convicted of carrying out the three-day ship seizure or of providing logistical support. Rejecting defence pleas for a reduction in penalties, the court confirmed life sentences against Palestine Liberation Front leader Mohammad Abbas (Abu Abbas) and three of his lieutenants found guilty in their absence of masterminding the hijacking off the Egyptian coast. All four are still at large. The four men convicted of carrying out the hijack, all of whom are in custody, were sentenced to between 30 and 17 years in jail.

## King warns of Israeli plan

(Continued from page 1)

their own responsibilities separately from the Jordanian side. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is not against the idea of a joint delegation because it has already approached Egypt for the formation of a joint Palestinian-Egyptian delegation, the King noted. U.S. credibility 'zero'

Expressing dissatisfaction with the current American attitude toward the Middle East while praising the Soviet stance, the King said: "The United States is moving again at present, but, what such moves are going to achieve for the region, I don't precisely know... the Soviet attitude is closer to the Arab attitude."

He described U.S.-Soviet relations as "encouraging" after the first super-power summit led to an agreement to remove intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

But, he added: "We are deeply concerned over the teaming up between the extremist Israeli right and the American right. I believe the United States should try to restore its credibility which has reached a zero point."

Responding to another question, the King said Jordan tried to obtain Soviet-made MiG-29 jet fighters but because of financial considerations had to shift to the French-made Mirage 2000 and modified Mirage-1.

"We obtained better financial conditions," he said.

Iran-Iraq war

The King said the Iraqi armed forces were not defending Iraqi territory alone but repelling an Iranian aggression designed to achieve Tehran's dreams of a Persian empire at the expense of the Arab

World. Iran, he said, plans to extend its domination on Arab land and Arab holy places and Arab wealth and natural resources and is fighting the Arabs in the name of religion.

The Iran-Iraq war, the King predicted, will end once Iran realises that the Arab Nation is determined to prevent Tehran from achieving its evil objectives. "I personally wish to be a soldier fighting the enemy at the Iraqi front," the King said.

Pan-Arab force

The King also said he had proposed the creation of a pan-Arab army to repulse any attacks on Arab countries.

Jordan is prepared to contribute units from its army, the King said and added that he had contacted Arab leaders to discuss the idea of a pan-Arab force.

"I disclose for the first time that I have started discussing with a number of Arab leaders the idea of setting up Arab brigades which enjoy a sophisticated standard of training and competence," he said in the interview.

The King said the force should have a "pan-Arab command based on the highest levels of training, armament and logistics, because any peace messages should be supported with might."

The force would be based on the Joint Arab Defence Pact which binds all members of the Arab League, the King said, adding that he became convinced of the feasibility of the idea following the emergency Arab summit held in Amman last November.

The King said the proposed pan-Arab force should be "ready to step in to repulse any aggression that faces the Arab Nation in any part of the Arab World."

## Al Hussein pays tribute to Maan

(Continued from page 1)

the side of the allies in the First World War contributing 100,000 men and losing 10,000," the King said.

"But in the peace conference in Paris the colonial powers went back on their promises and in 1920 Britain and France concluded the Sykes Picot treaty, which divided the Arab World between them," the King recalled. "Nevertheless, the Arabs went on fighting for freedom in Syria where they fought the great battle of Maysaloun. The leaders of the Arab areas which fell to the French and British appealed to Sharif Hussein to send them help from Hijaz and the Arab leader responded by sending his own son King Abdullah to lead the Arab forces against the colonial powers."

"It was Maan which served as the first step for the late king in his move northwards to support his Arab brothers. It was Maan which King Abdullah established as a base for his military operations and where he met with delegations from different parts of the Arab World welcoming him and entrusting him with the leadership of their forces."

King Hussein reviewed the British and French conspiracies to thwart Arab moves and to force King Abdullah to return to Hijaz. He said the late king remained in Maan for two years before moving on to Amman in 1921 to enthusiastic welcome from the Arab people.

King Abdullah, who founded the Kingdom, succeeded in saving East Jordan from colonial plots and succeeded in ending the confusion that had been prevailing in the country at the time and united the Arab forces under his leadership, King Hussein said. He said he was grateful to

Maan and its Arab citizens, who had joined the march for freedom under the standards of the Great Arab Revolt.

Jordan, he said, will remain faithful to the revolt's principles and will strive to achieve its objectives.

"We will continue to work hard and with determination to serve this nation from external dangers and threats and in the face of all conspiracies. We believe that the Arab World and the Arab Order in general are the target of our enemies in the eastern flank of the Arab World where Iraq has been exposed to aggression and in the Gulf states where the Arab people have been exposed to enemy threats."

"The same applies to the western front where we continue to face Israel along the longest confrontation lines. As the Israelis are confronting the common enemy in the east so are the Palestinians who are now involved in an uprising against the Israeli occupation forces. The past six months of uprising resembled a real revolt in the occupied Arab territories following 20 years of Israeli oppression at a time when we hear so much talk around the world about human rights."

"We will back our Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and we will never stop supporting and helping all Arabs who confront danger and face aggression."

Attending the iftar were His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Zaid Ibn Shaker as well as a number of Cabinet ministers.

## Israel closes Palestinian shops

(Continued from page 1)

There were scattered stone-throwings and roadblocks throughout the West Bank, the sources said.

In the Gaza Strip, the military continued a massive operation to change the identity cards of the Palestinian population over their age of 16. Over 500 residents of the neighbourhood of Rimal came to receive new cards.

An army spokesman said 2,000 residents had received new cards thus far. The area was closed to the press Wednesday.

The left-wing daily Al Hamishmar issued a scathing editorial of the army plan in an editorial Wednesday.

The paper said the army might be trying to put pressure on the families of young Palestinian protesters by denying their parents the new card.

## U.S. satisfied with Chinese, Saudi assurances over long-range missiles

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Reagan administration is satisfied with China's guarantees that medium-range missiles it sold to Saudi Arabia will not be fitted with nuclear warheads or resold, a senior State Department official said Tuesday.

Assistant Secretary Richard Murphy said the United States had talked to the Saudis about the need for assurances that the 3,500-kilometre-range CSS-2 missiles were non-nuclear but the Saudis had so far withheld permission to inspect the weapons.

Murphy said the United States had had talks with the Chinese about the sale of the missiles, which he said the United States had known of only as nuclear-armed weapons in China's arsenal.

He said China had given verbal assurances that "they would never sell their nuclear warheads to any country and that they had sold the conventional warhead on the assurance of no first use and no transfer from the Saudis."

Murphy said assurances were also given by the Saudis that the missiles would not be equipped with nuclear or chemical warheads. He said the assurances were made both orally and in a letter from Saudi King Fahd to President Ronald Reagan.

The United States is still discussing with Saudi Arabia its request for access to the missile sites, Murphy said. But another U.S. official, who asked not to be named, said he was doubtful the Saudis would change their minds.

Defence analysts argue that the conventional missiles could easily be converted for use as nuclear or chemical arms. But Murphy told a congressional hearing that by agreeing last month to sign the international nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Saudi Arabia was precluding the missiles' conversion to nuclear arms.

Murphy conceded, in response to questioning, that U.S. intelligence agencies had failed to detect the 1986 deal for the sale of the CSS-2 intermediate-range missiles.

Disclosure of the Saudi missile purchase has complicated the administration's proposal to sell to Riyadh U.S. military equipment and services worth \$825 million.

About 200 members of the House of Representatives and 58 members of the Senate have protested against the sale, citing the Chinese missile deal. Congress has until May 26 to squelch the sale.

Murphy said the Chinese missiles being deployed in the Saudi desert are not accurate weapons and "in our view, they also do not improve the security of Saudi Arabia, but the Saudis feel differently, particularly in view of the threat from Iran."

Murphy was testifying on behalf of the administration's proposal to sell the Saudis a \$325-million package of maintenance and training for U.S.-made AWACS radar surveillance planes. The five planes were supplied to the Saudis last year under a 1981 contract.

Murphy was also lobbying for the sale of 200 Bradley fighting vehicles, equipped with anti-tank Tow missiles, worth \$500 million.

Murphy said Saudi Arabia had warned the United States that if Congress rejects the sale, the Saudis "will go elsewhere." He noted that when Congress turned down the sale of F-15 fighter jets

to Saudi Arabia in 1985, the Saudis signed a \$12-billion contract with Britain for Tornado fighters.

"We lost business and influence," Murphy said.

He said Saudi Arabia uses the U.S.-supplied AWACS for aerial patrols to protect American naval forces against Iranian attacks in the Gulf. The Saudis also allow the United States access to their ports and air bases, and provide F-15 fighter jet protection for U.S. AWACS flights over the northern part of the Gulf.

The two sales before Congress "are clearly in the interest of the United States," he said.

## 'Pasqua asked ex-hostage to call for Chirac vote'

PARIS (R) — A government minister asked former hostage Jean-Paul Kauffmann to urge the public to vote for rightist Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in Sunday's French election, the satirical weekly Le Canard Enchaîné said.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and government negotiator Jean-Charles Marchiani made the request during the flight home by Kauffmann and two other hostages after three years in captivity in Lebanon, it said in its latest edition, which appears Wednesday.

Chirac succeeded in freeing Kauffmann, Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, France's only

remaining hostages, but critics said he had engineered their release to boost his election chances against Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

Mitterrand beat Chirac by 54 per cent to 46 per cent, the worst election result for the French right for 30 years.

The weekly said Pasqua and Marchiani had asked Kauffmann, a 43-year-old journalist, to be discreet about the conditions in which the hostages were held.

Pasqua had been visibly angry when Kauffmann started talking to fellow journalists on the tarmac of Paris' military airport of Villacoublay moments after his arrival, it said.

## Israeli Arab students identify as Palestinians

AN OVERWHELMING percentage of Israeli Arab high school students in the triangle village of Taibe support the raising of the Palestinian flag even inside Israel.

Most of the 220 11th and 12th-grade students surveyed also said they do not consider themselves Israeli Arabs, but Palestinian Arabs who are citizens of Israel. One third of those surveyed said they would rather live in a West Bank Palestinian state than in Israel.

The survey is to be published next week in the Arabic periodical, *Academic Affairs*, published by the Circle of Arab Academics

whose chairman is Dr. Ahmed Tibi, a na'ave of Taibe working as a surgeon in Jerusalem. Tibi said the survey reflected the "political maturity" of Arab students in Israel.

Eighty-four per cent of the students surveyed supported the raising of the Palestinian flag in Israeli Arab localities because "I support this flag." Ten per cent opposed this, "because the flag of the state is my flag." No opinion was expressed by 5.6 per cent.

Only 4.7 per cent of those surveyed defined themselves as Israeli Arabs, 57 per cent as Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel, and 27 per cent simply as

Palestinian Arabs. Eleven per cent gave other definitions, primarily Muslim Arab.

Asked where they would prefer to live, 32.5 per cent chose a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza District rather than Israel, 60 per cent preferred to remain citizens of their native land, and eight per cent expressed no preference.

On the question of who should be Israel's partner in peace negotiations 89.9 per cent said the PLO, 5.1 per cent said only the Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza District, 1.9 per cent said Jordan and 2.6 per cent said Egypt. Other partners were

named by 1.5 per cent.

Nearly 76 per cent said the solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is a Palestinian state alongside Israel, 16.7 per cent supported a secular democratic secular Palestinian state in all of Mandatory Palestine, and 4.4 per cent supported the return of the West Bank to Jordan and the former Gaza Strip to Egypt.

Nearly two thirds supported organised Arab-Jewish meetings, in which Taibe is heavily involved, 21.5 per cent said the meetings are not useful and should be discontinued, and 16.6 per cent had no opinion — The Jerusalem Post.

## Carbomb explodes in Nicosia

(Continued from page 1)

Pedhiocis River, turning Grivas Digenis avenue into a maelstrom of shrapnel, blazing cars, burned flesh, broken glass and blood.

Police said a man seen running away across wasteland as the jeep exploded dropped a bag containing a remote-control device.

The blast tore a metre-wide hole in the bridge, tossed two blazing cars in the air, toppled a lamp post and iron railings and smashed hundreds of windows along the avenue.

Vassilou told reporters he had called a meeting for Thursday afternoon to review security in

Cyprus, which has previously been the scene of violence related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Three months ago the southern Cypriot port of Limassol was rocked by a car bomb that killed three officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

That blast was followed 24 hours later by an explosion in Limassol harbour which crippled the ferry Sol Phryne, which the PLO planned to use as a "ship of return" to Palestine.

Palestinian officials had vowed to avenge the killings in Limassol and the later assassination of PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) in Tunis.

**RESTAURANT CHINA**

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Aniyah Girls School

Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.

6:30-Midnight

Tel. 638968

**慕堂餐廳**

**MANDARIN**

Chinese Restaurant

The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman.

Chinese Flaming Pot is available

Take away available

Open daily 12:00 - 15:30

18:00 - 23:30

Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic Bridge

Amman, Jordan

Tel: 661922

**CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT**

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.

6:30 - Midnight

**CHINESE RESTAURANT**

**TAIWAN TOURISMO**

Authentic Chinese Food

Korean Bar-B-Q

Charcoal Flaming Pot

Take-away service

Open daily Noon - 3:30 p.m.

& 6:30 p.m. - midnight

Location: Near 3rd Circle opposite Alkiah Hospital

Tel: 641093

**Kashmir Restaurant**

FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT

Special Executive Lunches

Take away service available

Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm

7:30-11:30 pm

After the Holiday Inn hotel

Towards 3rd circle

Tel: 659519 659520

To advertise in this section

Call 667171-6

670141-4

ext. 223

**EVERY DAY**

PEOPLE WHO NEED

MAINTENANCE SERVICES

CALL US!

**Electrolux**

P.O. Box 925229 AMMAN

Tel. 604671

**CROWN**

INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world

Tel: 664090, 660852

Th: 22206 BESMCO JO

P.O. Box 928457

AMMAN, JORDAN

**4 New Destinations**

**Calcutta Delhi Montreal & Miami**

We are pleased to announce four great new destinations worldwide - now adding India, Canada and Florida's fabulous Gold Coast to our long haul network with all widebody three class service. From the Far East to the American West, the Subcontinent to Canada - we're in the air daily offering superb cuisine and traditional hospitality worldwide.

**ROYAL JORDANIAN** الملكية الأردنية

**Setting new standards**

\*Subject to government approvals.



# Interest rate fears send shares tumbling

LONDON (R) — Share values plunged in Tokyo and in London Wednesday on investor fears that interest rates may be set to rise around the world.

Dealers said the mark-down was triggered by comments by British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson who said there could be a coordinated interest rate hike by major nations.

A coordinated rise by West Germany, Japan and other leading nations, if U.S. rates are raised to dampen American inflation, "is certainly possible," Lawson told the Wall Street Journal's European edition newspaper in an interview.

Costlier money is bad for business, and Lawson's remarks sent the Tokyo stock market's 225-share Nikkei index skidding 251.20 points, or nearly one per cent, to end a busy day at 27,161.05.

Losers led winners two to one in Tokyo, the world's biggest stock market.

Shares also closed sharply down in Hong Kong where the Hang Seng index lost 28.66 points to 2,534.36 points.

London took the cue and by 0932 GMT its FTSE index of 100

British blue chip stocks was down 28.8 points or 1.6 per cent to a morning low of 1,763.8.

Bond prices fell, too. Gold gained.

The gold price was fixed for the morning in London's bullion markets at \$449.35 an ounce, up \$2.70 from Tuesday. Investors favour gold when they scent a risk of inflation.

Fears in inflation, and of higher interest rates to brake consumer spending, have in recent weeks begun to weigh on money markets which earlier were more concerned about the dangers of a recession after the "Black Monday," Oct. 19 stocks crash.

Meeting in Basle, Switzerland, leading central bankers at a monthly meeting of the Bank for International Settlements were said by monetary sources Monday to be uneasy about inflation.

Many central banks opened the money sluices after the October crash, priming their economies with extra cash to minimise the danger of recession. Now, they

are concerned that all this money could stoke inflation.

"People now see inflation as a possible feature on the scene in contrast to the possibility of recession, which was seen as a danger six months ago," one central banker said in Basle.

The Wall Street Journal quoted Britain's Lawson as saying that Japan and West Germany had held back on increasing their interest rates before the United States does, for fear of weakening the dollar.

The dollar showed little reaction to his comments, trading in Europe just under 1.6775 marks and around 124.25 yen, slightly weaker than Tuesday.

If interest rates worldwide are set to rise, dealers said there was little point in moving money either into or out of U.S. dollars.

But there were good reasons to move to bank deposits or other short-term instruments from stocks and bonds, which tend to slump when interest rates rise, they said.

Investors decided that if interest rates are to rise, current yields on bonds — government and corporate — were too

low. U.S. government bond prices traded in Europe fell more than 25 cents for each \$100 face-value bond, while British government bond prices fell 50 pence for every £100 bond.

The sharp drops boosted yields, basically allowing investors to lock in a fixed interest rate for less money down.

In Tokyo, the effective yields on the benchmark 1997 government bond jumped to 4.765 per cent from 4.625 per cent.

The pound sterling remained in demand and traded around 3.16 marks and \$1.8550.

Ahead of the Wall Street opening, U.S. stocks traded in London slipped.

"Sentiment was very frail and Lawson's comments have destroyed it. The market is a bit demoralised," one dealer said.

But the British treasury was surprised by the market reaction. A spokesman said Lawson spoke about a hypothetical situation. He did not make a prediction.

Some European analysts saw parallels with last autumn when inflation fears prompted a modest tightening in monetary policy in

the United States, West Germany and elsewhere in the run-up to the crash of '87.

"Maybe lightning will strike twice in the same place," said the chief currency dealer of a U.S. bank in Frankfurt.

But others said the authorities seemed to have learned from mistakes and were showing solidarity in trying to calm markets.

Frankfurt share dealers blamed interest rate fears for a 1.5 per cent fall on the Frankfurt bourse. But French investors were more concerned with the appointment of Socialist Michel Rocard as France's new prime minister.

French shares were slightly easier but dealers said Rocard's centrist position was likely to be seen favourably.

Early in London's afternoon, the FTSE share index fell below 1,760 and was down more than 35 points.

The index began this month just above 1,800 and has not closed a trading day below 1,760 since April 6.

But dealers said trading Wednesday was never hectic and selling tailed off around mid-session.

## Jordan, Egypt sign trade pact

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt signed a trade protocol Wednesday setting the annual volume of bilateral trade at \$250 million for the year.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Al Saqqaf, who signed the protocol for Jordan's side, said the goods covered under the agreement would be exempted from customs duty and all other fees in either country.

Saqqaf said the two sides agreed on organising a trade fair for each country in the capital of the other and to allow for direct sale to the public from the fairs.

According to Saqqaf, Jordan needs Egyptian rice, cotton, aluminium, ammonia, broad beans and fertilisers while Egypt needs Jordanian cement, raw materials for manufacturing detergents, paints, copper, lead, aluminium fluoride, glass and rock wool.

The protocol was signed for Egypt by Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade Under Secretary Adel Al Jarhi.

Earlier Wednesday, Saqqaf discussed with Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Yusri Mustafa trade and economic relations between the two countries and ways to overcome obstacles impeding trade exchange between them.

Linking national grids

In another field, Jordan and Egypt have opened meetings in Cairo to assess a feasibility study on linking the national grids of the two countries.

Two technical teams from the two countries are involved in the discussion on the project which was prepared by a French technical team.

The two teams, which have been holding periodic meetings in Amman and Cairo, are expected to draw up a final report on the project later this year before a tender can be floated in 1989 for contractors to start work on the linkage in 1990.

The project which will take three years to complete, will be financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, according to an earlier report in the local press.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that once the linkage was made the door would be open for Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey to link their grids with the new network.

According to an official from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) the linkage with Egypt will be through a submarine cable connecting Aqaba Thermal Power Station and a point in Sinai and another at Suez in Egypt.

The official said that the linkage was necessary for helping the two sides to deal with emergency power shortages in their countries and to benefit from low-cost power, generated in either country at any time.

## World airline traffic jumps 13% in quarter

GENEVA (R) — International airline traffic grew by 13 per cent in the first quarter, to reach 41.5 million passengers, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said Wednesday.

IATA member airlines carried 36.5 million international passengers in the first quarter of 1987, and 174 million during all of last year, an IATA spokesman said.

"Traffic growth for this year as a whole has got to be between 10 and 12 per cent," a spokesman for the 168-airline association told Reuters.

"But the most growth has been in the low fare sector of the market," he added.

IATA Director General Guenter Eser, welcomed the increase but expressed concern that the average revenue earned by airlines per international passenger was falling.

"Consumer confidence and business demand remains very strong," he said in a statement.

"The only concern we have is that yields are falling to the extent that the traffic growth is not reflected in comparable profit increases for the industry as a whole."

## Major Wall Street brokers cease programme trading

NEW YORK (R) — Five major Wall Street brokers said Tuesday they would no longer use for their own accounts a computer-directed trading technique widely blamed for the October stock market crash, joining others in a bid to restore investor confidence.

The five firms — Salomon Inc., Morgan Stanley Group Inc., PaineWebber Group Inc., General Electric's Kidder Peabody and Company, and Bear Stearns Inc. — have been the largest New York players in programme trading, a computer-directed trading technique.

They announced separately they would quit the specialised trading for their own accounts but continue to do it for customers.

Presidential, congressional and regulatory commissions and panels have all laid some blame for the crash — and for market volatility in general — on programme trading, which is computer-driven trading to take advantage of price differences between stocks, stock index futures and options.

Concern over the risks and bad publicity had already driven Prudential-Bache, Merrill Lynch, Shearson Lehman Hutton and other leading brokers out of programme trading.

This second exodus is by firms who derive much of their income from their trading operations generally and were reluctant to give up the profits derived from programme trading.

The earlier wave included brokers, whose main business is buying and selling stocks to the

public, whose confidence in the market was shaken by the volatile price changes blamed on the programmes.

Calling their moves temporary, some of the brokers indicated they might return to programme trading if changes under consideration by government regulators were implemented.

Salomon predicted small operators would move in to pick up the business. "Some entity will attempt to capture the spread," Salomon said.

The "spread" alludes to the money that can be made when prices on stock markets diverge from the related options and futures. The idea of programme trading is to buy and sell simultaneously on the different markets to lock in a quick profit from price discrepancies.

Critics of programme trading argue that the only way to profit from such minute price changes is to hurl massive amounts of buy and sell orders into the markets, which lurch higher and lower from the burden placed on the system.

This causes even heavier programme trading in a chain reaction that can get out of control, critics say.

### Schwab attacks programme trading

In Washington, Charles Schwab, founder of a leading U.S. discount brokerage house, believes programme trading should be banned from American stock exchanges until a way can

be found to regulate it.

Schwab told the Washington Post that a ban on programme trading would restore the confidence of skittish individual investors, who feel the practice is manipulating the markets.

"They know there is something wrong in how this moves the market dramatically," Schwab was quoted as saying.

"There is some manipulation going on and they're damn mad about it," he said. "They would like to have it corrected before they come back to the market place."

Schwab, founder and chairman of the major discount stockbrokerage firm that bears his name, said the stock index futures market, a key factor in programme trading, is "out of control."

He said he favoured settlement of stock index futures in actual shares, and would like to see programme trading banned until regulations were adopted.

He suggested raising the margin required to trade stock index futures contracts, giving margin-setting authority to the Federal Reserve Board instead of the Chicago commodity exchanges that run the futures markets.

He also favours establishing a mechanism to better coordinate stock and futures market regulation.

The aim, he told the Post, would be to boost the confidence of individual investors by diminishing trading volume in stock index futures contracts and dampen speculation in the financial markets.

## Audi to cut workforce

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — Audi A.G., one of West Germany's leading car makers, said Tuesday it would cut 2,000 jobs out of its workforce this year, despite record sales in 1987.

The surprise announcement was the latest sign of the sluggish sales that have hurt West Germany's automobile industry over the past two years.

Car exports, particularly for high-priced luxury models, have slumped over the past two years because the strong Deutschmark makes German cars expensive in overseas markets.

Audi spokesman Ferdinand Piech told reporters that most of the job cuts would be made through attrition, "at least at first."

He said they were part of a wide-ranging cost-saving programme.

Speaking at the company's annual news conference in Munich, Piech said the decision on whether or not to resort to lay-offs would depend largely on the overall economy.

The job cuts would come at the company's main assembly plants at Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm, in southern West Germany, he added.

Audi A.G.'s total payroll at the end of March was 38,875 em-

ployees. Piech said Audi will attempt to contract out the production of components more in the coming years as a way of slashing production and development costs.

Piech said 1987 earnings were "unsatisfactory," even though they marked an increase over 1986 income. The company earned 120 million marks (\$74 million) in 1987, compared with 102 million marks (\$62.5 million) the previous year, he added.

Among the factors depressing earnings were heavy losses in the United States, Piech said.

The company has been forced to offer incentives to customers in a bid to boost sales following reports of accidents that resulted from a defect in the transmission of the Audi 5000 series, according to Piech.

Nonetheless, Audi's first-quarter sales climbed 10.5 per cent, to 2.86 billion marks, over the first quarter of last year, Piech said. He said the increase, coupled with the personnel cutbacks, will boost profit for the year.

Earlier this year Porsche A.G., maker of the famed German sports cars, was forced to announce job cutbacks earlier this year after posting a 50 per cent decrease in sales in the United States in 1987.

## S. African rand cracks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A slide in the value of South Africa's currency, the rand, to record lows this week has fuelled fears that the strain is beginning to tell on the country's siege economy.

As relatively weak gold prices continued to depress export earnings, the rand hit a record low of 4.17 to the British pound sterling and dropped steeply against the Deutschmark and Japan's yen. And although the dollar also weakened, the rand sank even faster against the U.S. currency, hitting its lowest level in more than one year of 2.23 rand to the dollar.

Economists worry that a weak currency will raise South Africa's 13.4 per cent inflation rate and slam the brakes on its import-dependent economy by making foreign goods and services more expensive.

"Many traditional signs of a genuine economic upswing are not showing up," said Ockie Stuart, director of the Bureau for Economic Research at Stellenbosch University.

"This is a worrisome trend since it is a situation that is symptomatic of a fortress economy," he said. "It seems realistic to expect that once again the balance of payments will damp down economic growth contribut-

ing to a lowering of living standards and further increases in unemployment."

Willie Potgieter, chief foreign exchange dealer at Standard Bank Ltd, said: "We believe the rand is likely to weaken further because of South Africa's inflation problems and balance of payment difficulties."

One key problem is the relatively weak price of gold, which accounts for nearly half of South Africa's export earnings. Gold has traded just around or below \$450 an ounce since February.

But some analysts argue that the currency should be allowed to fall to ease the burden of repaying South Africa's foreign debt.

A weak currency should help South Africa maintain its current account balance of payments surplus, the surplus from which it funds its debt repayments. It has repaid about \$5 billion of its original \$24 billion foreign debt since mid-1985 when international banks, alarmed by anti-apartheid protests and an insurance refusal to roll over loans to South Africa.

A weak currency gives a country's exports a pricing advantage overseas and, by boosting prices of foreign-made goods, discourages purchases of imports.

## U.S. bank raises prime rate

NEW YORK (R) — Chase Manhattan Bank Wednesday became the first big U.S. bank to raise its prime lending rate to 9.0 per cent from 8.5.

The prime rate, to which mortgage and other consumer rates are linked, had been declining from a high of 9.25 per cent in October 1987 in response to weakening demand for loans after the stock market crash that month.

But interest rates in the economy have been nudging higher in recent weeks.

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for May 11, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	152213	JD 198045	245
Top three companies:			
National Steel Industries Co.	14401	JD 39998	26
Universal Chemical Industries Co.	12000	JD 17884	19
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals Co.	6550	JD 15884	37
Parallel market:	52586	JD 26178	—
Development bonds:	532	5746	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8850/60	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2360/70	Canadian dollar
	1.6760/70	Deutschmarks
	1.8805/10	Dutch guilders
	1.3937/47	Swiss francs
	35.04/09	Belgian francs
	5.6920/50	French francs
	1249/1250	Italian lire
	124.20/30	Japanese yen
	5.8655/85	Swedish crowns
	6.1440/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.4325/55	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	449.10/449.60	U.S. dollars

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed firm but off its highs as nervous buyers retreated in a market lacking direction and interest. The All Ordinaries Index rose 3.3 to 1,406.5.

TOKYO — Prices closed sharply lower after Britain's finance minister forecast a possible coordinated increase in world interest rates if the U.S. Federal Reserve raised short-term rates. The Nikkei Index fell 251.20, 0.92 per cent, to 27,161.05.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed sharply lower following declines in Tokyo and news of the British finance minister's comments. The Hang Seng Index fell 28.66 to 2,534.36.

SINGAPORE — Profit-taking and lack of follow-through buying depressed share prices in the afternoon in lethargic trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 0.46 to 966.31.

BOMBAY — Prices closed mixed in moderate dealing after a two-week rally encountered profit-taking. Tata Steel fell 1.25 rupees to 706.25.

FRANKFURT — Prices closed lower for the third day as low foreign sales and worries about a possible world interest rate rise put pressure on an inactive market. The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, fell 23.5 to 1,286.9.

ZURICH — The market closed lower in reduced activity before Thursday's holiday. The All-Share Swiss Index fell 7.7 to 794.7.

PARIS — Prices opened the main floor session easier in very quiet trading.

LONDON — Prices stayed sharply lower in late trading but had moved slightly above their worst levels of the day. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was down 36.9 at 1,755.7.

NEW YORK — Stocks were down sharply in morning trading. Selling followed the British finance minister's comments on possible higher interest rates. The Dow fell 37 to 1,967.

## Poles end major strike

GDANSK, Poland (R) — Solidarity strikers have suddenly cut short a nine-day stoppage and marched empty-handed out of the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk, ending the last major strike in Poland's latest wave of labour unrest.

The strikers won no agreement and no concessions from the authorities, but they said Tuesday night they were leaving with heads high to fight another day for legalisation of the banned Solidarity union.

Roman Catholic Bishop Tadeusz Goculowski told a welcoming mass at a Gdansk church that authorities had promised there would be no dismissals or reprisals after the strike, which was ruled illegal by a prosecutor.

The shipyard strike was the last of a two-week series of stoppages led by Solidarity that challenged the communist government of General Wojciech Jaruzelski but failed to win decisive backing across the country.

Hundreds of supporters in the streets of Gdansk applauded and shouted "thank you" as the column of about 1,000 strikers marched out to the church of St. Brygidy, headed by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa behind a picture of the Virgin Mary.

"This time we did not make it," a statement by the Solidarity strike committee said. "We are not leaving the shipyard in triumph. But we are leaving without heads high..."

"We have not given up our fight for solidarity." Inside the church, an emotional crowd sang patriotic songs and chanted "there is no freedom

without Solidarity" as five priests said mass to welcome the strikers. Asked if the decision to leave the yard was the toughest of his life, Walesa said: "Probably yes, but the most difficult ones are still ahead of me." He was hugging his wife in an emotional reunion at the church gate.

Sources close to the strikers said some of them wept when told of the decision to leave the shipyard, where Solidarity was born in 1980, with no concessions from the authorities.

About 600 strikers in the shipyard canteen greeted the news of the strike committee's 13-0 vote, with two abstentions, with stunned silence. Then some of them wept, the sources said.

"They understood it was the only solution because the authorities didn't want to give them anything. Getting anything less than recognition of Solidarity would not have been enough for them," the sources added.

The strikers occupied the yard on May 2 demanding pay rises to compensate for price increases imposed by the government, recognition of Solidarity, freedom for alleged political prisoners and re-hiring of workers dismissed for political activities.

A similar strike at the Stalowa Wola steel mill in southeast Poland collapsed on April 30 after authorities granted pay demands.

The Gdansk strikers were blocked by police but repeatedly rejected pay rises and concessions offered by Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak, saying recognition of Solidarity was a pre-condition for any solution.

## Philippine hardens stand on debt

MANILA (R) — The Philippine senate ended a six-month lull with a flurry of tough steps on the country's debt Wednesday, proposing a limit on repayments and the repudiation of a controversial nuclear plant loan.

The senate also unanimously passed a bill setting up a legislative-executive debt commission that will monitor the Philippines' \$30 billion foreign debt and recommend members of the country's debt negotiation team.

Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme Tuesday said the Philip-

pines should beware of imposing any ceiling or freeze on repayments, policies which proved to be costly mistakes for Peru and Brazil.

Neptali Gonzales, chairman of the senate finance committee, and 11 other members of the 23-member upper house backed a bill setting an annual debt service ceiling of 15 per cent of total foreign exchange receipts of the previous year.

The bill said repayments should be restricted to 10 per cent of export receipts during the "cri-

fical economic recovery period" of 1988/89 but gave President Corason Aquino the authority to raise the level to 12 per cent if economic growth was good.

An agreement with Manila's 483 creditor banks restructuring \$13.2 billion of debt over a 17-year period came into effect last December.

Senate militancy on debt appeared to grow with a resolution tabled by senator Rene Saguisag, who heads a panel investigating the \$1.2 billion loan outstanding on a 600-megawatt, \$2.2 billion nuclear plant built by Westinghouse Electric near Manila.

Saguisag's resolution said Manila was paying out \$355,000 a day in interest on the nuclear plant loan.

Aquino, faced with protests over the plant's cost and safety after she took power from Ferdinand Marcos in February 1986, mothballed the plant and said she would try to get the contract with Westinghouse rescinded.

The resolution said "over-aggressive, irresponsible bankers have come to realise that there is such a thing as 'lender liability'." It said Aquino should study the need to suspend all payments on the loan pending a national consensus.

## Bahrain shipyard shows profit

BAHRAIN (R) — A yard whose business includes repairing ships attacked in the Gulf tanker war showed its first profit last year, when a record 170 vessels were damaged in the waterway.

But officials at the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY) say the raids by Iran and Iraq are costing them money.

"Fewer ships now enter the Gulf, they are afraid of attacks. Everybody thinks we are making a profit because of the war but we are not. We could make a bigger profit if the war stopped," Ahmad Abdullah, spokesman for

the Bahrain-based firm, told Reuters.

He said ASRY made a small profit in 1987 after nine years of failing to break even.

About 20 per cent of the 46 ships repaired at the yard last year were attacked in or around the Gulf by Iran or Iraq, one of ASRY's seven Arab owners.

Thanks to major jobs on ships ripped open by missile attacks or mine blasts, ASRY made about \$22 million in 1987 which officials said just



## Pistons win 11th straight NBA home playoff game

NEW YORK (AP) — The Detroit Pistons won their 11th straight home playoff game and held Michael Jordan in check Tuesday night. Adrian Dantley scored 18 of his 23 points in the first half and Detroit held Jordan to seven points in the opening 24 minutes en route to a 93-82 victory in the opener of their Eastern Conference Playoff Series.

Jordan finished with 29 points, 16 under his playoff average, snapping his streak of consecutive games with 30 or more at eight. In the opening game, in the Western Conference, it was Denver 126, Dallas 115.

Late Tuesday night, Utah tied its series with Los Angeles, beating the defending National Basketball Association (NBA) champions 101-97.

On Wednesday night, the other Eastern Conference series begins, with Atlanta at Boston.

The Pistons, who allowed only 78 points in the fifth game of their first-round series against Washington, held Jordan 10-for-7 shooting in the first half.

### Jackson named rookie of the year

Meanwhile, Mark Jackson, who set an NBA record for assists by a rookie and helped lead the New York Knicks to their first playoff appearance since 1984, was named the league's rookie of the year Tuesday.

## YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Rafter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1988

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You may feel a bit tired this morning, but this feeling will soon pass and you will find some very interesting opportunities to put a clever new idea into action. You can progress quickly by using your imagination.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19):** If your mate is in a bad humor, keep silent and use patience to avoid a rift. This is a good time to catch up on your reading or writing.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20):** Even if you are very eager for some recreation, don't get into something which is too costly. Avoid people who like to spend gossip.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21):** Much care in driving will be necessary today, especially on the highway. Make sure you use the right words on the telephone.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21):** Try to be more efficient in your daily activities. You may not like the idea of a fellow worker, but don't say anything negative.

**LEO (July 22 to Aug. 22):** You may be tempted to make a spiteful remark, but keep your temper and stay out of trouble. Use more than usual care while driving.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Don't make any radical changes in your daily routine this morning. Clear up any credit matters you have been putting off lately.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Conditions at home may not be particularly pleasant, but you can easily find a way to solve this problem. This evening should be a happy one.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Be sure you solve any business problems before you go out for a good time with your friends. Don't take any risks this evening.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Don't get into an argument over a trip you've been planning. Go out with some of your best friends for a happy night on the town.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20):** You may be anxious to gain more assets, but you'll need more preparation before you act. Finish any tasks you have left undone.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19):** Some information you need can be gathered from a close friend, but don't be fooled by flattery. Don't get into any new recreation just now.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20):** A public matter has been difficult to solve for some time, but, with a little patience, you can easily achieve the desired results now.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1988

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Remember that Friday the thirteenth is only bad luck if you make it so. Get together with some cheerful, optimistic friends and enjoy some frivolous entertainment. Avoid arguments at all costs.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19):** You could make some interesting and profitable discoveries by catching up on your correspondence. Take your mate out on the town tonight.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20):** Pay some overdue visits to friends and relatives who may be feeling a bit depressed. Business interests can be quite successful today.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21):** If you need some information to help improve your finances, consult only qualified experts. Some special thought for your mate is needed.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21):** Follow the directions of a superior carefully, and pay special attention to details. Don't let anyone get your dander up today.

**LEO (July 22 to Aug. 22):** If you have some special entertainment in mind, be sure it is not too expensive. It is extremely important that you take care while driving.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Get to work on making your home more comfortable, and then invite some guests in tonight. Don't allow any arguments to start there.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** You will have an opportunity to go out with friends. It would be wise to accept this invitation, as you could make some valuable acquaintances.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** If you handle your work with enthusiasm and confidence, a superior will be most impressed. Take it easy tonight and get plenty of rest.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** This is a day for new experiences, so go out with your mate for some unusual activities or just try a new restaurant tonight.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20):** Stay around only positive thinking, cheerful persons, and avoid an acquaintance who is bothersome. Do something special for your mate.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19):** It is important that you find a way to get out of that rut you've been in and improve your mood. Your good friends can cheer you up.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20):** You will have an opportunity to drastically increase your income, so keep your eyes open. Listen to the ideas of a successful friend.

## Board to go ahead with Budd eligibility probe

LONDON (AP) — A panel probing the eligibility of Zola Budd to run for Britain will report to the national track federation this month despite Budd's decision to step away from the sport and return to South Africa, an official said Wednesday.

Ewan Murray, chairman of the British Amateur Athletics Board (BAAB), said that the three-member commission had placed its inquiry "on hold" but still planned to issue its findings May 21.

The panel never had a chance to question Budd in its probe to determine whether she should be suspended for at least 12 months for violating the spirit of international rules barring contact with her racially divided homeland, Murray said.

The announcement came a day after the 21-year-old Budd, citing "nervous exhaustion," flew back to her family home in Bloemfontein. She said she was uncertain about ever running again.

Budd's abrupt departure sparked a flood of editorials and columns in Britain's national newspapers Wednesday, with the publication that helped bring her here four years ago saying it felt "desperately sorry" for the two-time world cross-country champion.

"She ran like a gazelle," the tabloid Daily Mail said. "But they have brought her down with the moral righteousness of big-game hunters destroying a rogue elephant."

"Her only wish was to run. She has been crushed by those who cannot crush South Africa. An act of vengeance as pitiless as it is pusillanimous: getting at the strong by taking it out on the weak."

The Daily Mail itself was attacked in another paper's editorial. "Ever since a popular newspaper, a shaky foundation for good causes, unwise decided to exploit her talents more than four years ago, Miss Budd has been on an ill-starred course," the Daily Telegraph, with the largest circulation among the "quality" papers, said.

"The sages among us will wag their heads and declare that she should have known better," the Telegraph said. "At 17? Did we all know better then?"

## THE BETTER HALF.

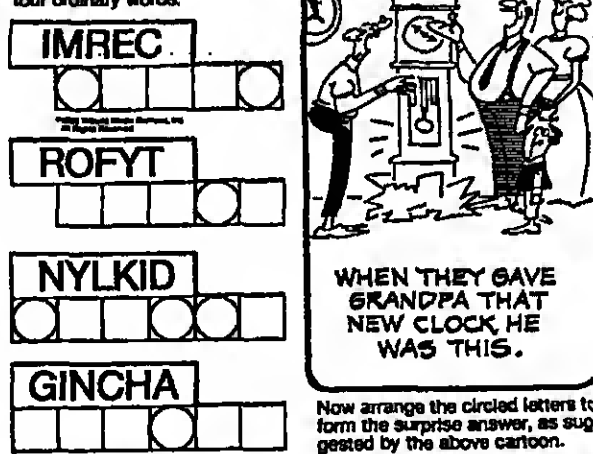
By Harris



"It's a letter from the government! Starting May 1st, sunshine will cost 50¢ an hour and rain will cost 25¢ an hour!"

## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O - O O O O"

Jumble: GULE PLAT KENNEL IMPACT

Answer: What a wrinkle is—THE "NICK" OF TIME

## South Korean dissidents urge North-South cooperation

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A group of leading South Korean dissidents urged the presidents of South and North Korea Wednesday to "immediately resume negotiations" to bring the two sides together to the Seoul Olympics in September.

"We believe the 24th Olympiad affords the brethren in the South and North a chance to meet without political burdens," said an open letter by 34 dissidents from religious, academic, literary, journalistic and women's circles.

North Korea has said it will boycott the games unless it is made a co-host. In earlier talks among the two Koreas and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), North Korea was told it could stage a few of the events, but it has asked for more.

After reading the letter to a news conference, Presbyterian Minister Park Hyung-Kyu said one copy would be mailed Wednesday to South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo and another, addressed to North Korean President Kim Il Sung, would be sent via Panmunjon, the village through which the two Koreas make contact. There was no immediate comment from the South Korean government.

The letter did not take up specific Olympic issues, such as co-hosts or a joint South-North team for the games.

The letter added that both Koreas would be able to take part in the games if the two sides entered talks and made concessions.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
1987 Tribune Media Service, Inc.

### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ A93 ♠ KJ873 ♠ J632  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ 1 ♠

Q2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q9—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q10—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q11—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q12—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q13—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q14—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q15—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q16—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q17—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q18—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q19—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q20—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q21—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q22—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q23—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠ 872 ♠ KQJ93 ♠ A9 ♠ K86  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

## Tulasne upsets Becker in Italian tennis match

ROME (Agencies) — Thierry Tulasne of France, ranked 67th in the world, stunned third-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany 6-4, 7-6 (7-1) Tuesday in a first-round match of the Italian Open Tennis Championships.

Top-seeded Ivan Lendl eased past Jaro Navratil of Czechoslovakia 6-2, 6-4 in his debut in the \$825,000 clay-court tournament.

Lendl, the world's top-ranked player who took off two months earlier this year with a foot injury, was never seriously challenged by Navratil, No. 123 in the world. The match lasted 78 minutes.

But No. 4 Yannick Noah of France struggled to down Eduardo Bengoechea of Argentina 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

The hottest player on the tour, American teenager Andre Agassi, came from behind to beat Italy's Claudio Pistolesi 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

In one of the most star-studded days in the 45-year history of the Italian Open, many of the biggest names in men's tennis played first-round matches at the Foro Italico.

Seeds advancing with straight-set victories including No. 6 Andres Gomez of Ecuador, No. 7 Anders Jarryd of Sweden, No. 14 Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina and No. 16 Aron Krackstein of the United States.

No. 13 Mikael Pernfors and No. 10 Joakim Nystrom, both of Sweden, were ousted. Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia beat Pernfors, a former NCAA singles champion at Georgia, 6-3, 6-1. Pedro Rebolledo of Chile defeated Nystrom 7-6, 6-3.

Tulasne pulled off the first major surprise of the tournament by outplaying Becker in one hour, 45 minutes on Center Court.

Becker, who excels on fast surfaces, showed why he has never won a major clay-court tournament. He rushed his shots, appeared unsure when to attack or stay back and committed more than twice as many unforced errors as Tulasne.

Tulasne broke Becker's serve three times in the first set and served out the set in the 10th game with an overhead.

The Frenchman led 5-3 in the second set, but Becker broke for 5-5 to set up the tiebreaker. Becker made six unforced errors in the tiebreaker as Tulasne prevailed 7-1.

"I knew I had a chance because Becker is not at his best on clay," said the 24-year-old Tulasne. "I had to keep him away from the net and play deep and hard. That bothered him."

Becker, a two-time Wimbledon champion ranked No. 6 in the world, said he came apart after leading 3-1 in the first set.

"I lost my timing and rhythm," he said. "My serve and volley kept me in the match but on clay that's not good enough. On clay, you have to be able to hit the ball five, six or seven times a rally."

Becker, who captured the WCT tournament and Indian Wells event this year on hard surfaces, said he may scale back on clay-court tournaments.

"It's always on the back of my mind: Here I am on clay again, what must I do?" he said.

Noah barely prevailed over Bengoechea, the man who upset him in Rome last year in a match that ended well past midnight.

The Argentine led 4-3 in the final set before Noah broke serve for a 5-4 advantage and served out the match in the next game. On the first match point, he followed his serve to net and put away a forehand volley.

One of the most eagerly awaited matches of the day was Agassi's duel with Pistolesi. Fans packed the concrete stands and stood three-rows deep around the side court to cheer on the Italian against the new American star.

### Graf returns with crushing victory

In West Berlin, Steffi Graf returned to tournament tennis in stunning form Tuesday and routed France's Julie Halard 6-0, 6-1 in the second round of the West German Women's Championships.

The world number one, in action after a four-week break and defending the title she won here last year, took the first 11 games then relaxed and allowed her opponent to escape a whitewash.

"Her game is far too fast," Halard, ranked 51st in the world, said after her 44-minute defeat.

"I played a little and even tried out a few things that went wrong," Graf commented.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson

FULL LARDER by Olive Dune

ACROSS

1 "Picnic" author

2 Pear

3 Source

4 Alter, abbr.

5 Eastern prince

6 Flagship or

7 Brand

8 Red pigment

9 Singsong event

10 "Zorro" actor

11 Greek extravaganza

12 Serf

13 Side tale

14 Houston team

15 Member

16 Slightly leaved plant

17 Foot

18 Pretended

19 Staid

20 Promising

21 "Panic" author

22 Pear

23 Source

24 Alter, abbr.

25 Eastern prince

26 Flagship or

27 Brand

28 Red pigment

29 Singsong event

30 "Zorro" actor

31 Greek extravaganza

32 Serf

33 Side tale

34 Houston team

35 Member

36 Slightly leaved plant

37 Foot

38 Pretended

39 Staid

40 Promising

41 "Panic" author

42 Pear

43 Source

44 Alter, abbr.

45 Eastern prince

46 Flagship or

47 Brand

48 Red pigment

49 Singsong event

50 "Zorro" actor

51 Greek extravaganza

52 Serf

53 Side tale

54 Houston team

55 Member

56 Slightly leaved plant

57 Foot

58 Pretended

59 Staid

60 Promising

61 "Panic" author

62 Pear

63 Source

64 Alter, abbr.



## Danish premier resigns but set for new coalition

**COPENHAGEN (R)** — Denmark's Conservative Prime Minister Poul Schlüter resigned Wednesday following an indecisive general election, but seemed set to return at the head of a strongly pro-NATO centre-right coalition.

Schlüter handed what he called a "temporary resignation" to Queen Margrethe.

His minority coalition government held on to its share of 70 seats in the 179-seat parliament in Tuesday's election but still fell short of a majority.

Leaders of the eight parties returned to parliament will now hold talks to seek a basis for political co-operation. Most of them are widely expected to ask Schlüter to head negotiations for a new coalition government.

"It is important that we avoid another crisis within a few months and that we create the basis for a parliament that can work for a full four-year term," Schlüter told reporters.

The centre-right four-party government called the election after defeat on an opposition move to tighten a ban of ships bringing nuclear weapons into Danish ports.

Schlüter said this threatened Denmark's membership of the NATO alliance. Britain and the United States refuse in principle to say whether their vessels are nuclear-armed.

The right-wing Progress Party, campaigning on an anti-tax, anti-immigrant platform, was the biggest gainer in the election, while

opposition anti-nuclear socialists lost seats.

Defence Minister Bernt Johansen told reporters: "The vote demonstrates a significant shift from left to right in support of pro-NATO parties."

But Schlüter acknowledged that NATO supporters might be disappointed by the failure of the four government parties to increase their overall parliamentary mandate.

"It could have gone much better yesterday, but it could have been much worse — even though the decision was not so clear as I would have liked," he said.

Denmark, strategically important because it controls the mouth of the Baltic Sea and the approaches to neighbouring Norway, was often been criticised in NATO circles for spending too little on defence and dissenting from joint decisions.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg said: "It is unfortunate that the Danish election failed to clear up the parliamentary situation."

The Danish crown strengthened on foreign exchange markets and prices on Denmark's important bond market rose after the election result was announced.

## Police besiege Golden Temple

**AMRITSAR, India (Agencies)** Indian paramilitary police fought a dawn gun battle Wednesday with Sikh separatists harricaded inside the Golden Temple killing at least one person and wounding three.

Police said a youth was shot dead as he carried water to gunmen pinned down since Monday by police firing from rooftops overlooking the vast temple complex, the Sikhs' holiest shrine.

A news photographer said he saw three other people including a woman fall to police bullets during two hours of heavy firing but police could not say whether they were dead or wounded.

About 3,000 police, some armed with sniper rifles and night sights, have sealed off the temple complex with its maze of small rooms and pillars, and clamped a curfew on the walled city of Amritsar.

A curfew in effect since Monday to keep people off the streets during the shooting was lifted Wednesday in most parts of Amritsar's old, walled sector but

remained in force within 200 metres of the Golden Temple, police said.

**Police seek clues to blast**

In New Delhi, an awning stretched across the entrance of the bomb-shattered Citibank office as police continued investigations Wednesday of the blast that killed one person and injured 14.

There has been no claim of responsibility for Tuesday's bombing at the U.S.-owned bank and police refused to comment on whether they had any suspects.

Two men injured in the bombing were in serious condition Wednesday, but the other 12 injured people have been released after undergoing treatment at hospitals, doctors said.

## Dukakis edges closer to nomination

**CHARLESTON, West Virginia (R)** — Michael Dukakis has swept two more primaries on his Democratic presidential nomination march amid new signs that Democrats who defected to President Reagan in 1984 may return to the party in the November election.

As expected, the Massachusetts governor won landslide victories over his remaining rival, black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, in West Virginia and Nebraska Tuesday.

He swept West Virginia with 79 per cent of the vote to Jackson's 13 per cent. In Nebraska, Dukakis beat him 65 to 24 per cent.

With those wins, Dukakis was three-fourths of the way towards the 2,081 delegates needed to win the nomination at the party convention starting July 18.

Polling interviews with voters from Tuesday's primaries suggested 25 per cent of Democrats who voted for Reagan four years ago would now vote for Dukakis over Vice President George Bush, the certain Republican nominee, in the November election.

"This is another major step to the nomination," Dukakis told a New York news conference after his Tuesday wins. Bush also won easily in both states. Bush has no active competition.

Dukakis said his goal now was to wrap up the nomination by winning large primaries in California and New Jersey June 7.

## 106 Philippine army mutineers convicted

**MANILA (R)** — A Philippine military court has convicted 106 soldiers who took part in a failed coup attempt to restore deposed ruler Ferdinand Marcos to power and sentenced their leaders to 12 years' hard labour.

The military announced the decision Wednesday as 5,000 Marcos supporters, chanting his name and demanding his return from exile in Hawaii, marched to Corason Aquino's tightly guarded presidential palace.

The convictions, which came Tuesday night after a marathon court martial, were the largest number handed down by the military in connection with five army revolts Aquino has faced in her two years in power.

The charges arose from the mutineers' 60-hour occupation of a private Manila television station in January, 1987, and attacks on two air bases near the capital that left one soldier dead and 16 wounded.

Only one of 108 soldiers charged with mutiny, absence without leave, illegal possession of firearms and conduct prejudicial to military discipline was acquitted of all the charges, military spokesman Colonel Angel Mayoralgo said.

Another accused soldier escaped during the trial and his case remains pending, he said.

Revolt leader Colonel Oscar Canlas and 39 others were found guilty of mutiny and received sentences ranging from six to 12 years of hard labour.

## Kanak militant front warns Mitterrand of more trouble

**NOUMEA, New Caledonia (R)** — Melanesian Kanak separatists warned President Francois Mitterrand Wednesday of more trouble in the French territory of New Caledonia unless a military presence there was reduced.

The main indigenous group opposed to continued French rule of the South Pacific island chain said it had called for a two-day "grace period" from unrest in which 28 people have died.

The grace period was to give newly re-elected socialist Mitterrand time to form his government and address the New Caledonia issue.

But the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front

## Gorbachev: Reform will continue despite 'turmoil'

**MOSCOW (R)** — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev says his ambitious reform programme has brought turmoil even at the highest Soviet level but he expressed determination to press ahead with change.

In a speech to leading newspaper editors last Saturday, Gorbachev said not all party members were ready to accept his "perestroika" restructuring programme.

"We have revealed a real turmoil in the minds of many people — workers, intelligentsia and leading cadres, not only below but at the top," he declared. The text of his address was issued by TASS news agency Tuesday.

Analysts said the Soviet leader was referring to reported disagreements over the pace of reform in the Communist Party's ruling politburo, in particular to a rumoured rift between him and Kremlin ideology chief Yegor Ligachev.

Soviet sources earlier quoted people present at the meeting as saying that Gorbachev had attempted to dispel rumours by gesturing towards Ligachev and saying: "We all have a great deal to do together yet."

In his speech, Gorbachev made clear he would make no concessions to opponents of his policies. But in a clear bid for rapprochement, he said he disagreed with press reports branding them as enemies.

It was more a question, he said, of people being confused or panicked at the prospect of radical changes in their lives.

"But I would not immediately categorise the panickers as irresponsible people or opposed to perestroika," he said.

In recent weeks, an open debate in the Soviet press has pitted hackers of the reforms against more conservative elements. Some letters and articles expressed concern that Gorbachev might be ousted.

Gorbachev called on the Soviet media to work as an "instrument of perestroika."

The mass media, he said, had great responsibilities and "must, like the rest of society, be kept in tune."

"We are all children of our time," he said. "We conceived perestroika, but we also embody many of the things which hold it back. Revealing this, comrades, is a very important task for the media."

Referring to next month's party conference, Gorbachev confirmed he would press for a reshaping of the party structure, in line with his drive to curb bureaucracy and make officials more accountable.

"We must think again about the structure of the party apparatus," he said. "We are thinking of introducing a series of proposals on this account."

He urged party organisations to use support for perestroika as their main criterion in selecting delegates for the conference, the first of its kind since 1941.

"There's not going to be any of the quota system we had in the past — so many workers and peasants, so many women, and so on," he said. "The main political aim is to choose for the conference the most active supporters of perestroika."

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Najibullah to attend special U.N. session

**UNITED NATIONS (R)** — Afghan President Najibullah is among more than 20 heads of state or government due to address a special General Assembly session next month devoted to disarmament, the U.N. said Tuesday. It will be his first visit to the United Nations. He is listed to address the assembly June 7, three weeks after the start of the scheduled Soviet troop pullout from his country under the U.N.-sponsored Geneva accords signed last month. Other heads of state scheduled to speak at the disarmament session, May 31-June 25, are the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Gambia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal and Zimbabwe, and the vice-president of Cuba. Among prime ministers listed to address the assembly are those of Finland, Greece, Iceland, India, Israel, Japan, Lesotho, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turkey.

### Locksmith on Sumgait riots trial

**MOSCOW (R)** — A locksmith went on trial in the Azerbaijan city of Sumgait Wednesday, the first of more than 80 people who will face the courts in connection with ethnic riots in the city in February, Pravda said. The Communist Party daily said T. Ismailov, who was born in 1967 and works at the local pipe and tube plant, was charged with intentional homicide under the aggravating circumstances of hooliganism and taking part in mass disorders. He faces eight to 15 years in prison or the death penalty, if found guilty on the first charge and two to 15 years in prison on the second. From his name, Ismailov appears to be an Azerbaijani.

### Tribal rebels kill 2 in Bangladesh

**DHAKA (R)** — Separatist tribal rebels shot dead two members of a family and wounded another in southern Bangladesh Tuesday, officials said. They said gunmen from the outlawed Shanti Bahini (Peace Force) riddled Hashem Ali and his 15-year-old daughter, Zarina Khatun, with bullets as they were guarding rice fields from attacks by wild boars. Khatun's mother, Jahanara Begum, was badly wounded in the attack in the heavily forested village of Malingpara in the Chittagong hill tracts. The latest attack raised to 52 the number of Bengali-speaking settlers killed by the rebels in three weeks, according to official figures. The Shantis, made up mostly of Chakma tribesmen, took up arms in 1973 after the government rejected their demand for autonomy for the 14,200-square kilometre hill tracts bordering India and Burma.

### Von Weizsäcker ready for another term

**FRANKFURT (AP)** — Richard von Weizsäcker said Tuesday he is ready to run for another five-year term as president. Von Weizsäcker is expected to win the election easily when federal and state lawmakers make their choice a year from now. The president said it was still too early for a final decision, but added: "From today's standpoint I am happily ready to continue dedicating myself to my duties" beyond the current five-year term.

## Hole cut in house to hospitalise ailing man

**AMITY HARBOR, New York (AP)** — Rescue workers had to cut a hole in the bedroom wall of a house to extract a 450-kilogram man who had to be hospitalised for acute bronchitis, officials said. John Finnelly, 45 was taken to Brunswick hospital with the aid of a highway department truck equipped with a hydraulic lift, said a spokesman for Suffolk County police. Police responded to a call of a man having difficulty breathing at 10 p.m. Monday. Rescue workers decided he would have to be hospitalised. Finnelly would not fit through the bedroom doorway, so workers cut a hole in an outside wall and up to a dozen men lifted him out of the house on a gurney, Yovino said. He was then put on the truck, using the lift, and taken to the hospital, where he was in stable condition Tuesday, the officer said.

## China's consumers irked by false advertising

**PEKING (R)** — China's consumers, only recently introduced to advertising, are falling victim to wild claims, the official China Daily said Wednesday. The newspaper quoted the Legal News as saying that makers of a "mice killer" claimed their product was an "effective ultrasonic device that kills all mice in its range in three to five days." It was no more than a few pieces of scrap metal, the publications said. A customer in the eastern province of Jiangsu was quoted as complaining about a "fully automatic and highly effective near-sightedness therapeutic instrument" that did not live up to its claim.

Advertising, unheard of in China 10 years ago, has grown into an industry with more than 700 agencies and annual profits of more than one billion yuan (\$270 million).

## Beer legalised after 73-year ban in Iceland

**REYKJAVIK (AP)** — Alcoholic beer became legal in Iceland Tuesday after 73 years of prohibition, and will go on sale from March 1, 1989. The upper house of the Althing (parliament) debated into the night before passing a bill legalising beer with alcoholic content above 2.5 per cent. The vote was 13-8. The lower house approved it 23-17 April 18, with two members absent. Tuesday's vote climaxed a year of debate that split the Iceland's 243,000 inhabitants into rival camps, one side arguing that the law was archaic and riddled with loopholes and the other claiming legalised beer would increase alcoholism. In 1908, Icelanders approved by referendum a ban on all alcoholic beverages. The law took effect Jan. 1, 1915.

## Woman dies after 27 years in coma

**LYON, France (R)** — A woman died Monday at the age of 30 after spending 27 years of her life in a coma, hospital officials said. They said Patricia Daloz-Furet went into a coma in 1961 after undergoing a minor operation at the age of three in the hospital near this southeastern city. She never recovered consciousness.

## 'Electronic viruses' threaten programmes

**DALLAS (AP)** — An insidious malady creeping onto disks of personal and business computers is wreaking havoc with programmes and creating a new conservatism among computer users. So-called "electronic viruses" are actually small computer programmes, usually developed by mischievous "hackers" to attack software in mainframes and personal computers. Effects of the new epidemic have made some computer users sick with frustration. Users who don't know where their software has been the past several months may have reason to worry about its health. "You mean I can catch something from that thing?" quipped J.D. Bettes, a crime prevention officer of the Garland police department, which uses an electronic "bulletin board" to give out information. "Do I have to wear rubber things on my fingertips?" Electronic bugs have been known for years in computer technology. The most benign viruses simply blank out screens for a moment, then flash messages such as, "gotcha." But more destructive forms can create system failure or even delete important computer files from memory. Viruses enter through exchanged software and may remain undetected until they strike. And the bugs can reproduce.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

### TENDER NOTICE NO. 3/88 SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF DIGITAL SWITCHING EQUIPMENTS

Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (TCC) announces Tender No. TCC 3/88 (Supply and Installation of Digital Switching Equipments) as part of the Implementation Programme of the "Five Year Development Plan" to expand the Telephone Network in Jordan.

The project includes:

- Implementation of new large and small digital switching nodes including a combined National & International Switching Centre.
- Expansion and modification of the existing switching network.
- Supply and installation of power systems, air-conditioning and fire alarm equipments.
- Supply and installation of stand by diesel generators.

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their bids in accordance with the Terms, Stipulations and Technical Specifications contained in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders are requested to submit in addition to bid price a financing proposal to finance the cost of the subsequent contract to be awarded.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee, Telecommunications Corporation, P.O. Box 1689, Amman, Jordan) as of May 14, 1988 against a payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred Jordanian Dinars (JD 500).

Bids, accompanied by a Bid Security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon local time on Wednesday, Aug. 31, 1988.

Director General  
Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail

## Starstruck Reagans raise laughs, reflections in Europe

By Marcus Ellison  
The Associated Press

**LONDON** — The tale of the starstruck Reagan White House splashed across the front pages of European newspapers this week, drawing jokes and jibes along the way, and even came up on the floor of Britain's House of Commons.

"I come under Libra, which is a very balanced sign," declared Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher when asked by a light-hearted fellow Conservative lawmaker whether she planned to move an astrologer into her No. 10 Downing St. residence.

Thatcher, 62, was born Oct. 13, under Libra, the sign of the scales.

The disclosure by former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan about the role the Zodiac played in the Reagan White House are giving Europe's cartoonists, punsters and humourists a lot of fun.

"Advice on Star Wars from the stars themselves," headlined West Germany's Frankfurt Rundschau newspaper. "The star-spangled planner," sniped London's Independent.

Le Monde, France's most prestigious paper, ran a cartoon in which an astrologer is asked: "How come you didn't predict Regan's book?"

The issue of kiss-and-tell books by former government workers — or "spit-and-tell," as London's Guardian put it — doesn't exercise many Europeans. Many governments bind employees to lifetime oaths of confidence that make such revelations difficult.

### European record

However, one family that has suffered the scourge is Britain's royals. The family also imposes oaths of confidence, and in 1983 it resorted to the unpremeditated tactic of suing a former Buckingham Palace kitchen worker and the tabloid Sun, which was serialising his memoirs. The Sun settled out of court and scrapped the series.

Britain's royals aren't known to see astrologers, although there was unconfirmed gossip two years ago about Prince Charles consulting an Ouija board. But in 1956, Queen Juliana of The Netherlands

caused a political storm when it emerged that she consulted a faith healer about her daughter, Princess Christina, who had serious eye trouble.

The healer, the late Greet Hofmans, was accused of helping steer Juliana away from supporting NATO and into pacifism.

One famous British furor broke over the posthumous 1975 publication of cabinet minister Richard Crossman's memoirs, a candid account of life in Prime Minister Harold Wilson's government. Government attempts to suppress publication failed.

Lord Moran, the late Winston Churchill's doctor for 25 years, triggered a storm in 1966 by publishing a diary of the World War II leader's illnesses, which had been kept secret. Moran was accused of violating medical ethics.

More recently, Thatcher has fought a prolonged battle to stop former secret service agents from publishing memoirs, most notably Peter Wright's "Spycatcher." It's banned in Britain but available

abroad.

But if any British politicians are consulting the stars, no kiss-and-tell memoirs have surfaced to confirm it.

In Greece, on the other hand, many Greek politicians are known to check their career prospects with astrologers, mediums and readers of coffee cup dregs, usually sending wives or daughters to ask the questions.

"I understand what Nancy Reagan was doing... my wife does the same thing, but taking an opinion from an astrologer is one thing and basing decision-making on him or her is quite another," said a Greek parliamentarian who declined to be named.

A 50-year veteran medium who goes by the name of Fotoula claims to have been consulted in her basement apartment near the parliament in Athens by "several prime ministers and I don't know how many cabinet ministers" from Greece, Egypt and Lebanon during her 50-year career.

"Why not? politicians in government need the advice of all

sorts of people," she said.

West Germany's Bild newspaper quoted Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher as saying he reads the horoscopes daily but doesn't believe in them.

"It is interesting to learn what I supposedly face day by day," he said.

Defence Minister Manfred Woerner was quoted as saying: "Astrology is very interesting, but personally I would rather place my fate in the hands of our loving God."

Dutch astrologer Jacques Chandu said he frequently advises politicians on party matters, but declined to name names. He said Mrs. Reagan had given him a trade a boost.

But S. Schouten of Utrecht University's parapsychology department said he doubted astrology played a role in Dutch politics.

London's left-of-centre Guardian said it was glad "there is one date that not even Mrs. Reagan's astrologers can postpone. The date of the next presidential election."